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## CONTENTS OF THIS NUMBER.

THE WEEK.....	391
SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.....	394
EDITORIAL ARTICLES:	
The Short Verdict.....	396
The Suez Canal Conference.....	396
Gladstone's Critics.....	397
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE:	
England: The Redistribution of Parliamentary Seats.....	397
CORRESPONDENCE:	
Homer's Color Perception.....	398
A Still More Youthful Judge.....	399
The Missed H.....	399
The Popular View of the Administration.....	399
The West Point Oath.....	399
The Personality of George Eliot.....	400
NOTES.....	400
REVIEWS:	
Select Orations.....	403
Recent Novels.....	404
Recent Law Books.....	405
Studies, Literary and Historical, on the Odes of Horace.....	407
Pictures from Pennsylvania German History.....	407
Passages in the Early Military Life of General Sir George T. Napier, K.C.B.....	408
Librarianship as a Profession.....	408
La Chanson de Roland.....	409
Afghanistan and the Anglo-Russian Dispute.....	409
An Outline of the Future Religion of the World.....	409
Musikalische Dynamik und Agogik.....	410
BOOKS OF THE WEEK.....	410

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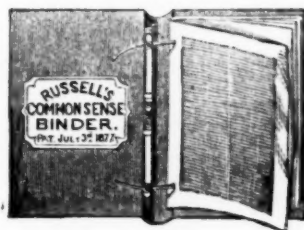
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# The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1885.

## The Week.

THERE is a growing uneasiness at the Treasury Department in view of the steady decline in the revenue, which has already overpassed the shrinkage estimated by ex-Secretary McCulloch. The unsatisfactory condition of trade is reflected in the lessened receipts from customs and internal revenue. Mr. McCulloch's estimate of \$330,000,000 of revenue from all sources for the year ending June 30, 1885, is too large by \$20,000,000, possibly by \$25,000,000, while the estimate of expenditures (\$290,000,000) was too small by the sum to be expended during the fiscal year for new cruisers authorized by Congress at the last session. The estimates of expenditures included \$47,000,000 for the sinking fund, and showed a surplus over all disbursements of \$39,000,000. According to present appearances there will be a surplus not exceeding \$15,000,000, and it is likely to fall below this amount, since the shrinkage of receipts appears to be progressive. Of course the redemption of the public debt by bond calls must upon this showing cease. The operation of the sinking fund will reduce the actual liabilities of the Government, but we have come to a pause in the cancellation of the interest-bearing debt. This is perhaps not an unmixed evil, since, with the stoppage of bond calls, the whittling away of the security of the national banks ceases for the time, and opportunity is given for devising means for preserving that beneficent system, or providing a decent substitute for it. This incidental advantage is offset, however, by the growing menace of the silver coinage, which becomes more serious exactly in proportion as the surplus in the Treasury declines, and as the public expenditures encroach upon the public receipts.

Secretary Manning is fully alive to this danger. Orders have been issued to the sub-treasuries at the principal cities to pay out only such funds as the payees desire, and not to force silver or silver certificates upon unwilling creditors so long as other funds hold out. This is decidedly the most prudent and manly course to pursue, since it leaves nothing open to conjecture or suspicion. It is equivalent to a public proclamation that the policy of the Administration is to adhere to the gold standard as long as the means hold out, and to make no discrimination in favor of or against any locality. If failing revenues, or increasing expenditures, or any other compulsion, brings us to the use of a depreciated currency, the responsibility will rest upon Congress and not upon the Executive. An issue must be made up in plain terms, and the battle must be fought without disguise or subterfuge. It cannot be postponed longer than the next session. If the silver crisis can be put off till December by means of the narrow margin still remaining between the public income and outgo, that is undoubtedly the extreme limit of time left for debate and experiment. It must then be determined whether

we are to have a financial break-down preparatory to a rebuilding on the silver basis, or not. One thing is quite certain, that when the crisis comes the "gold bugs" will be well prepared for it. They are employing the interval in getting their funds in such shape that the depreciation will do them the least possible harm. By investing their ready money in sterling exchange or in gold-bearing securities, they are putting themselves beyond the reach of serious injury, and preparing to speculate upon the necessities of less fortunate people. Only a limited number of persons can protect themselves in this way, but they happen to be the very class whom the silver fanatics imagine that they can reach and punish by lowering the standard of value.

The appointment of Mr. E. O. Graves as Chief of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in the Treasury Department, is one of the wisest and most useful selections that Secretary Manning has made or could possibly make. Mr. Graves has made a reputation for himself, in an unobtrusive way, as one of the very best class of public servants. His efficiency was early recognized by Secretary Sherman, who placed him at the head of the Commission appointed some years ago to investigate the Engraving Bureau. He found that this branch of the public service had been converted into a sort of general hospital for broken-down politicians. Appropriations had been voted from year to year by Congressmen for no other purpose than to make places for their henchmen, and this bureau had been selected for their retreat because it was less exposed to public observation, and was surrounded with more mystery, than any other. Shelves had been put up in obscure corners for the reception of this class of invalids, who had nothing to do but to draw their pay, and who were generally incapable of any more active employment. Mr. Graves gently but firmly drew them from their hiding places, and reduced the force 30 per cent., actually increasing the efficiency of the service by making elbow room for the real working force of the bureau.

The Administration is developing a commendable disposition to undo a blunder. Through too implicit reliance upon endorsers whose recommendations ought to mean something, the President was induced to appoint a brother of Senator Blackburn as Collector of Internal Revenue in Kentucky, and Secretary Bayard to promise the consulate at Nagasaki, Japan, to J. Ernest Meiere. The latter turned out to be not only an "unreconstructed Rebel," but a fellow of most disreputable character in his personal and domestic relations. Blackburn proves to be the typical Southern bully and braggart of the ante-war period, who celebrated his advent in the Confederate service by writing a letter, worthy of the average dime-novel hero, in which he declared his desire to "make the Union men of Kentucky feel the edge of my knife," invoked hell as his portion if he ever spared one of them, and expressed his hope to "see Union blood

run deep enough for my horse to swim in." The appointments of both these ruffians have been revoked, and the lesson which such incidents teach will hardly be lost upon the appointing power. That lesson is the absolute worthlessness of the endorsements of office-seekers by professional politicians. Meiere was recommended for appointment not only by leading Democrats of Colorado, but by prominent Republicans, like Senator Bowen; and equally strong endorsements can be secured by almost any clever scamp. The Meiere and Blackburn cases furnish fresh arguments in favor of Assistant Secretary Fairchild's suggestion that the names of all applicants for office be made known some time before action is taken.

Senator Dawes, of Massachusetts, will get himself disliked by such Republicans as Senator Frye, of Maine, if he keeps on. Mr. Frye is the man who remarked the other day that everybody who had been appointed to office was either a Rebel or a Copperhead, and that he saw nothing at all to commend in the Administration. Senator Dawes is about starting for the Indian Territory with a committee appointed to investigate the system of leasing Indian lands. He tells a reporter that the trouble grows out of the fact that the Secretary of the Interior in the last Republican Administration was involved in a scheme to let the cattlemen get control of the Indian lands without being himself directly or technically responsible, and that it is this way of doing business which they now have to remedy. He has had several interviews with the new Secretary of the Interior and the new Commissioner of Indian Affairs, whose appointment he heartily endorsed, and he says that so far as he can see there is every reason to expect a good administration of Indian affairs. Moreover, a mention of President Cleveland's name called forth the remark that thus far he had no fault to find with the Administration. Mr. Dawes's attitude, as that of a Senator ambitious for reelection next year, is much more creditable to the people of Massachusetts than is that of Mr. Frye, who has a similar ambition, to the voters of Maine.

The most industrious propagator of protectionism in public office during the past half dozen years has been Mr. Joseph Nimmo, jr., Chief of the Bureau of Statistics, whose removal was announced on Tuesday week. The greatest effort of his life was a report made two or three years ago to show that the internal commerce of the country was twenty-five times greater than the foreign commerce. The purpose and object of this essay was to enforce the idea that efforts to extend foreign commerce were of trifling importance and of questionable utility, as though a merchant who had twenty-five customers in his own town and one in a neighboring town should not trouble himself to get any more trade. The plain implication was that the twenty sixth customer was of doubtful advantage anyway, and that a few more of the same kind might break up the business altogether. In subsequent treatises Mr. Nimmo modified his statistics so far as to

acknowledge that the foreign commerce of the country was about one-seventh of the total volume of exchanges effected, but the protectionist doctrine that the part of a thing is greater or more valuable than the whole, was as plainly discernible in the later investigation as in the earlier. Mr. Nimmo added to his other disqualifications as a statistician those of "an offensive partisan," one of his latest productions being a compilation of figures showing how important it was that the Republican party should be continued in power. Such abilities as his must be in great demand in that numerous class of private undertakings where a great deal of figuring is required to puzzle the human understanding, and to befog the simplest questions of business and finance.

There is a remarkable contrast between the first important steps in Southern affairs taken by the Garfield and the Cleveland Administrations. Four years ago the Republican Executive sustained the course of the party in the Senate in making a coalition with the Virginia repudiationists, and carried out the bargain by turning over to Mahone for his personal use the control of the Federal offices in that State. This year a Democratic President takes early occasion, by the unmistakable character of his first important appointment in Louisiana, to indicate his purpose of making war upon the Democratic ring, based on the Louisiana lottery swindle, which has for years brought upon the latter State an odium scarcely inferior to that fixed upon Virginia by the Mahone gang. The attack upon this ring is to be continued by a series of prosecutions against the lottery company, which it is announced that Postmaster-General Vilas proposes to have brought before the Federal Courts in a number of States. Such action by the Post-office Department will deepen the resentment of the Louisiana Machine against the Administration, to which Senator Eustis has given voice, but it will in the same ratio strengthen Mr. Cleveland's hold upon the country. The favor shown by a Republican Administration to the Virginia repudiationists was a potent element in the demoralization and defeat of the Republican party, and the hostility of a Democratic President to the Louisiana lottery gang will be equally potent in the contrary direction.

The appointment of Mr. G. V. N. Lothrop, of Michigan, as Minister to Russia is one of the best selections made by President Cleveland for any branch of the public service. Mr. Lothrop is a man of the same type as Minister Phelps—a lawyer of eminence and character, if not the foremost at the Michigan bar, certainly in the foremost rank. Mr. Lothrop has always been a Democrat in politics, was a pronounced Union man during the war, and has never, we believe, been a candidate for office. Four of the five principal missions have now been filled in a highly creditable way, and one only by a questionable appointment. This is certainly as high an average of diplomatic strength and respectability as we are accustomed to. The appointment of Mr. Lothrop has also a special significance, entirely aside from the question of his fitness, because it is a clear and unmistakable declaration of inde-

pendence on Mr. Cleveland's part. There is no State in the Union where the spoils-seeking Democrats have made such a "dead set" for the control of the patronage on the old basis as in Michigan. The Democratic Congressmen-elect and the Democratic candidates who were defeated last fall met in Detroit a few weeks ago, and arranged a complete slate of all the Federal offices in the State, which early this week they submitted to the President. Mr. Cleveland, whom they had coolly relegated to the place of a mere recording clerk, heard them through, and remarked with a smile: "Gentlemen, I will consider the names which you have presented, but please remember that I reserve the right to reject any or all bids." Not only was Mr. Lothrop's name not on the slate, but none of the delegation had ever thought of recommending the appointment of men of his grade.

The selection of an educated and accomplished colored man of the highest character as Minister to Hayti is a convincing answer to the charge that the State Department withheld the commission from George W. Williams because it was prejudiced against him on the ground that he is a negro. The treatment of Williams, whose nomination for this post by President Arthur just before his term expired was a discreditable use of his power, and the appointment of Dr. Thompson, alike show a commendable disposition on the part of the Administration to treat the black man exactly like the white man. Investigation of Williams's record showed that he was not fit to represent this Government in a foreign country, and his own conduct since the 4th of March has removed the last doubt in the matter. Dr. Thompson, on the other hand, is a gentleman of high standing, who has received a liberal education and appears to be well qualified in every respect for the place he is to fill. The fact that his race can present so excellent a candidate for a foreign mission is a striking evidence of the rapid progress which it is making; while the selection of a negro by a Democratic President for such an office is gratifying proof of the advance which the party has made since it was last in power.

The removal of Postmaster Palmer, of Chicago, and the appointment of Mr. S. Corning Judd in his place, is a change made in strict accord with the principles laid down by President Cleveland in his letter to the Civil-Service Reform League. Mr. Palmer falls within the definition of "an offensive partisan" in the sense that his office has been one of the working agencies of the Republican party from the time that he took possession of it, in the latter part of General Grant's term, till the end of the late campaign. The business of the Post-office has, nevertheless, been well managed, and it would be unjust to describe Mr. Palmer as "offensive" in any other than a partisan sense. He has simply adhered to the old party methods, and followed the fortunes of General Logan, to whose partiality he owed his appointment. His chief subordinate, Colonel Squier, is one of the best Postmasters in the United States, and, like Postmaster Pearson, a man wholly absorbed in the duties of his office. Under an

ideal system of civil service, Mr. Squier would be entitled to the position of Postmaster upon the occurrence of any change in the head of the office. It is altogether probable that the new Postmaster, Mr. Judd, will retain the services of the trained employees, whether they are embraced in the Civil-Service Act or not. This policy may be looked for with the more confidence since Mr. Judd was not a candidate for the place, and consequently can have no outstanding pledges.

Students of hygiene will be greatly interested in some facts bearing upon that science which have recently been reported from Washington. It is the general opinion all over the country that the present spring, by reason of its backwardness, has been exceptionally trying, and this opinion is fully sustained by the unusually large mortality almost everywhere reported. The season has been unpropitious at the national capital as elsewhere, and it might be supposed that the number of cases of illness among persons employed in the Government service would have considerably exceeded the average. But the surprising discovery has been made that the cold, raw spring of 1885 has been the healthiest ever known among Government clerks. In the Sixth Auditor's Office, for example, where the same force is now employed as a year ago, the sick leaves have sunk from an average of 550 days per month to only about 200 in either March or April. It appears that this improvement in the health of employees became plainly visible immediately after the 4th of November last.

The Supreme Court has just rendered an important decision in what are known as the Tennessee bond cases, which have long been the subject of litigation. Under an act of the Legislature for the establishment of a system of internal improvements, passed in 1852, the State of Tennessee issued bonds to various railroad companies, the State retaining a lien to secure the payment of the interest. The interest was paid until the breaking out of the war, but the burden then fell upon the State, which at various periods after the Rebellion issued new bonds to fund the accrued interest and the matured bonds. In 1870 the Legislature passed an act permitting the railroads to discharge their indebtedness in the legally issued bonds of the State, and two years later nearly a dozen of the lines were sold under foreclosure of mortgage for \$6,698,000, the greater part of which was paid in depreciated bonds and coupons. The question raised in the suits just decided was whether the lien with which the State was invested upon the issue of its original bonds to the companies, bound the property of the companies for the payment of the bonds and interest to the several holders or only to the State; and the Supreme Court holds, as the lower courts had done, that security to the State was the sole purpose of the lien, and that the provision for foreclosure was manifestly for the benefit of the State alone. The practical effect of this decision will apparently be that the holders of the bonds in litigation, who have delayed funding them in the hope of getting more out of the railroad companies, will now fund them, and it does not involve a reopening



of the State debt question, as the decision in the Virginia coupon cases does.

The killing of the Field Code does not do away with the necessity for reform in the law, and does not nullify the mandate of the State Constitution which directs the Legislature to appoint three commissioners to do something about codifying the law. It will be observed, however, that the Constitution does not call for "a written and systematic code of the whole body of the laws of this State." It leaves it to the discretion of the Commissioners to "codify so much and such parts thereof as they shall deem practicable and expedient." Consequently there is no need whatever for setting commissioners to do work which probably no one set of commissioners would be capable of accomplishing. The history of the Field enterprise is full of instruction on this point. The attempt to codify ought to be made piecemeal, and ought at the outset to be confined strictly to experiment. One subject should be taken up at a time, and the work submitted to the rigid scrutiny of the bar and the judges before any attempt is made to enact it; and the commissioners, having done their work, ought to be the very last men to urge its adoption before the Legislature. Mr. Field's own lobbying on behalf of his Code to induce laymen not to mind what his professional brethren thought about his work, has been from the first a discreditable spectacle.

All codes or parts of codes ought to come to the Legislature through the bar. To procure their adoption, the weight of professional testimony ought to be overwhelmingly in their favor. Lawyers have their weaknesses like other men, but their interests are all on the side of clearness in the law, because their business depends on their being able to advise confidently, and on being able to make it clear to their clients when they lose their cases why they lost them. Nothing makes men so unwilling to litigate as uncertainty as to whether their dispute will be tried on its merits. The amount of business withdrawn from lawyers in this city alone, and given to Arbitrating Boards, in order to secure a trial simply on the merits by a competent jury, is enormous and is increasing. Nothing will arrest this tendency but some such reform in the law as will make more clear to litigants beforehand the point on which their case will turn. At present this is shrouded in mystery. There is hardly any civilized community as well provided with judges as we are, and yet there is not one which suffers more from the law's delay. A speedy decision on the merits, that is, on the essential facts of the case, is what all laymen mean by justice. This, too, is what all real law reform aims at. What prevents our getting it in this State is not half as well known or as carefully examined as it ought to be. It would be well worth the while of some Bar Committee, or some member of the bar to whom the dull times give leisure, to give the public a report as to the nature of the points on which appeals have been taken and new trials ordered in this State during the last ten years. The proportion of them which had any relation to the merits would, we fear, be found very small; the proportion which

had relation solely to matters which business arbitrators would set aside as wholly irrelevant, would be found very large.

The persistency with which General Grant's physicians adhere to their original diagnosis of his case is a sore trial to those of our esteemed contemporaries who are not able to agree with them. That physicians who are with the patient daily should overrule the decision of able editors who have not seen him at all, but who arrive at their conclusion after an investigation which is calmly and scientifically conducted at a safe distance from the symptoms, is naturally very irritating. Woodcuts of the offenders should be published in order that they may be held up to the ridicule of all mankind, and the publication ought to be accompanied by the views of the various "quacks" who applied for permission to cure the General and were refused. Suppose, by the way, that a quack had been allowed to try his treatment at the time when the General was so low. Suppose that he had tried the "mind cure" which is making such a commotion in New England. What would have been the result when this remarkable rally, which the General has made without their aid, took place? It would have been hailed as one of the most "miraculous cures" of modern times, and the impetus which would have been given to "quackery" of all kinds would have been immense.

Two remarkable illustrations of the apparently growing incapacity of legislators to draft bills which will hold water, are reported almost simultaneously. The Iowa Legislature at its last session passed a very important law to secure the enforcement of the prohibitory amendment forbidding the sale of liquor, which practically gave any citizen the power to close a rumshop by securing an injunction against its keeper—that is to say, the Legislature intended to pass such a law, and everybody supposed when it adjourned that it was as binding as any part of the statutes. But in a test case which came before the courts last week, counsel for a liquor-seller argued and apparently proved that the bill in question never became a law, because the journal of the lower branch of the Legislature contains no record of its passage, the original prohibitory amendment a few years ago having been annulled by the Supreme Court on this very ground. The Oregon Legislature at its recent session, after thorough discussion, passed a High License Bill, which the public accepted as a well-considered measure, likely to produce the same good results as similar laws in Illinois and other States. But the discovery has just been made that the statute is really of no effect, through its failure to provide a penalty for selling liquor without a license, and the saloon-keepers are preparing to continue their business without paying any fee. The loss to the State under two years of free rum will be so great that the Governor is urged to call a special session of the Legislature for the sole purpose of remedying this defect. These gross blunders reinforce the arguments which were already strong enough for the general adoption of some system, like the appointment of a lawyer as permanent legislative counsel, which Governor Hill recommended last January, to insure the detection of

errors and the exposure of weaknesses before it is too late to mend the mischief.

The Prohibitionists have again come to grief through their disposition to secure the end which they have in view by disregarding individual rights. The Kansas Legislature, at its recent session, passed a new law to enforce the policy of prohibition, which its advocates urged would be effectual. This statute conferred upon the County Attorney dictatorial powers, authorizing him to institute a court of inquiry when complaint was made, to subpoena witnesses and administer oaths, and empowering him at his sole discretion to punish any witness for contempt, for disobedience of subpoena, or for refusal to be sworn or to answer questions. In short, the new law aimed to endow scores of prosecuting county officers throughout the State with judicial powers of the most sweeping character, and its practical effect would have been to set in operation a great number of star-chamber courts. The first test case was made at Leavenworth last week, and it resulted, as any reasonable person might have expected it would, in a judicial decision that no such power can be exercised in a free State. The County Attorney having committed a witness to jail for contempt, because he refused to answer an inquiry on the ground that he might criminate himself, the prisoner was taken on a writ of habeas corpus before a judge, who promptly ordered his discharge. The judge held that the power of summoning witnesses and committing them for contempt was a judicial prerogative which could not, under the Constitution, be conferred upon a county attorney, and that such a tribunal would not only be in violation of the Constitution, but, by virtue of its partial character, would violate every fundamental idea of the due administration of justice. The reasonableness and justice of this decision cannot be impugned.

Gladstone had another of his narrow escapes on Monday night. He got a majority of only thirty on the division, on the motion of censure made by Lord George Hamilton; but then the Parliaments, who number about twenty-five, voted with the minority, as usual, without any regard to the merits of the case, so that the Ministerial majority, as a test of the strength of the Cabinet with the English and Scotch members, may fairly be set down at fifty-five. This is not bad, considering that it followed on what was really a humiliating announcement of the abandonment of the expedition against Khartum, and on a refusal to say what are the terms of the understanding with Russia. The Tories put themselves, however, clearly and even ludicrously in the wrong by showing great dissatisfaction at hearing that any settlement with Russia had been made on any terms. The Ministerial plan with regard to the Sudan is, however, for the first time marked by sound sense. The attempt to take Khartum and smash the Mahdi is to be utterly abandoned. The Mahdis—for there now appear to be two—are to be left to their own devices. The Egyptian frontier is to be fixed at Wady Halfa. Suakim is to be held indefinitely, as it was the leading point for the export of slaves to Arabia proper.

## SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

[WEDNESDAY, May 6, to TUESDAY, May 12, 1885, inclusive.]

## DOMESTIC.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND on Wednesday suspended Frank W. Palmer, Postmaster at Chicago, and appointed S. Corning Judd to succeed him. Palmer was, an active if not an "offensive partisan." The President has also appointed I. Parker Veazey, of Baltimore, to be Postmaster of that city, to succeed Postmaster Adreon, whose term expired on May 5. Mr. Veazey is a lawyer, the partner of ex-Judge Pinkney, the brother of ex-Senator Pinkney Whyte.

The President on Friday appointed George V. N. Lothrop, of Michigan, to be Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States to Russia; Boyd Winchester, of Kentucky, to be Minister Resident and Consul-General of the United States to Switzerland; John E. W. Thompson, of New York, to be Minister Resident and Consul-General of the United States to Hayti. Mr. Lothrop is said to be one of the ablest lawyers of the Michigan bar. He has been an active Democrat, but has not been connected with the factions of that State. He was graduated from Brown University in 1838, and was made LL.D. in 1873. He is sixty years of age. Dr. John E. W. Thompson, a young colored man, was born in Brooklyn and is a resident of New York city. He is a graduate of the Medical Department of Yale College. Later he pursued his medical studies in Paris, where he became proficient in the French language. He was highly recommended for the position by the Faculty of Yale, as well as by many leading citizens of his native State.

President Cleveland has revoked the appointment of James Blackburn, a brother of Senator Blackburn, to be Revenue Collector of the Lexington, Ky., district. He did this on being shown a letter written by J. Blackburn in 1861, in which he declared his purpose "to make every Union man in Tennessee feel the edge of my knife," etc.

The appointment of Dr. J. Ernest Meiere to be Consul at Nagasaki, Japan, will be revoked. The wife of Dr. Meiere recently obtained a divorce on the ground of neglect and cruelty.

Arthur D. Bissell has been appointed Collector of Customs for the District of Buffalo. It is Mr. Cleveland's first appointment for Buffalo. Mr. Bissell is a brother of Wilson S. Bissell, the President's former law partner. Particularly among lake and canal men is the appointment received with satisfaction.

A. P. Swineford, of Marquette, Mich., was on Friday appointed Governor of Alaska.

The resignation of Captain Burrill, Superintendent of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, was requested on Saturday morning, and Mr. E. O. Graves, Assistant Treasurer of the United States, has been tendered the position, to take effect June 1. The appointment of Mr. Graves will certainly be conceded to be a striking illustration of civil-service reform. He has worked his way up, on his own merits, from a subordinate clerkship to the position he now occupies. He was one of the original civil-service reformers, and was, perhaps, the first Government official to enter heartily into civil-service reform, under the Grant Administration. He has fought for civil-service reform through several administrations, and has had the respect and confidence even of the public men who differed from him in regard to the reform. He has not sought the position as Chief of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It has been tendered to him unsolicited by the Treasurer, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the President.

H. B. James has been removed from the position of Chief of the Customs Division of the Treasury Department. There are no charges against his efficiency or integrity.

The Second Battalion of United States Marines, numbering 400, embarked at Aspinwall on Thursday for New York, on the steamer *Colon*. The First Battalion still remains to guard the Isthmus. The court of inquiry recently ordered at Aspinwall by Admiral Jouett, to investigate the charges against Commander Kane, in its decision says: "The conduct of Commander Kane was in our opinion eminently proper. He acted with judgment, with discretion, with firmness, and in accordance with his orders. Had Commander Kane acted otherwise than as he did, there is no doubt that the lives of the American citizens imprisoned by Prestan would have been sacrificed, with no benefit to Americans or to other foreigners, either in the saving of life or property."

Governor Hill, of New York, on Friday vetoed various items of the Appropriation Bill, among them: (1) the salary of the Secretary of the Regents of the University, \$5,000, an increase of \$1,500. The point is urged that an appropriation bill should make provision only for fixed charges, and should not contain legislation. The Governor was unable to veto only the increase, and special provision will have to be made for the salary. (2) Item of \$25,000 for the State survey to initiate making a topographical map. No definite plan has been laid out for this work, which will probably cost, before completion, half a million and possibly a million dollars. (3) Item of \$25,000 for the Adirondack survey. No results have been obtained proportionate to the expense of over \$75,000 which it has thus far cost. The work should be done under the direction of the State Engineer and Survey. (4) Item of \$26,000 for Commissioners of Fisheries. The Commissioners are directed to expend \$3,500 of this amount in stocking Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River, part of which are foreign waters. This direction is the subject of objection, the Commissioners having no option.

The Field Civil Code was finally defeated in the Assembly at Albany on Thursday by a vote of 52 to 67.

The Assembly on Monday night, by a vote of 84 to 24, passed the bill exempting soldiers from the Civil Service Act. In the Senate on Tuesday an effort to make it a special order for the afternoon of that day was defeated, 8 to 19. It therefore went to the Judiciary Committee, and will probably not be favorably reported.

By the clever parliamentary tactics of Walter Howe the Assembly at Albany, on Tuesday, was forced to pass a bill limiting the price of gas in cities of more than 400,000 inhabitants to \$1.50 a thousand feet. This applied to New York and Brooklyn. Later in the day, however, the bill was recalled from the Senate, to which it had already been sent, by a vote of 63 to 54.

In the Thirty-fourth Illinois Legislative District on Wednesday, the Republicans so successfully conducted a still hunt that they elected their candidate, Weaver, in place of a Democrat. The district is strongly Democratic. This stroke of political management gives the Republicans 103 votes on joint ballot in the Legislature (a majority of 2), and will enable them to elect a United States Senator to succeed John A. Logan.

The annual meeting of the Civil-Service Reform Association was held in this city on Thursday evening, with Mr. George William Curtis in the chair. Mr. Curtis commended the efforts of President Cleveland on behalf of civil-service reform, and severely criticised the Earl bill exempting veteran soldiers and sailors from the provisions of the State Civil-Service Law. Similar sentiments were expressed in the report of the Executive Committee. The report stated that all of the cities in this State have adopted regulations for admission to their service excepting Hudson, Watertown, Oswego, Rome, Elmira, Schenectady, Newburgh, and Lockport. It is estimated that the whole number of positions brought within the application of the civil-service rules as at present established in the State of New York is between 12,000

and 13,000, being in the State service, 3,600; in New York city, 5,540; in Brooklyn, 1,418; estimated elsewhere, 1,765.

The Association of the Army of the Potomac, which met at Baltimore on Wednesday, reflected General Grant its President.

The Congress of American Churches was opened at Hartford, Conn., on Monday. The great Protestant denominations were represented by many of their leading clergymen.

The trial of Richard Short, for attempting to kill Captain Thomas Phelan, was ended on Wednesday evening in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, in this city. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, which was received with loud applause by Short's friends. When silence was restored, Judge Van Brunt said he was astonished at the verdict, and discharged the jury from any further attendance on the court. Short was then released. One of the jurors was arrested on Friday for contempt of court in having been seen in Rossa's office during the trial.

A despatch was received from Auckland, New Zealand, on Wednesday, that Maxwell, the murderer of Preller, had been arrested there. He is held for a requisition from this country.

A fire in the lumber district of Chicago, on the southwestern outskirts of the city, on Friday afternoon, caused a loss of more than \$800,000.

A committee of the exhibitors at the Prize Fund Exhibition, held at the galleries of the American Art Association in this city, has made the following allotment of the prize paintings to the cities named: "A Rough Day; Entrance to the Harbor of Honfleur," by Frank M. Boggs, to Boston; "The Last Sacrament," by Henry Mosler, to Louisville; "Near the Coast," by R. Swain Gifford, to the Metropolitan Museum, New York; "La Crépuscule," by Alexander Harrison, to St. Louis. The Association announces that the first Prize Fund Exhibition has been a gratifying success, and that a similar one will be held in March next.

## FOREIGN.

The London *News* was authorized on Thursday to deny that Russia had stipulated that England should not occupy Port Hamilton. The *News* believes that Russia has offered England positive assurance that she has no intention of taking possession of Herat. She, however, refuses to make any treaty so binding herself.

Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice, in the House of Commons on Thursday afternoon, said that General Ridgway, with Captain Yate and others, would remain in charge of the Afghan Boundary Commission. "The instructions sent to Sir Peter Lumsden," Lord Edmund continued, "do not cancel his appointment. He has not been summoned to London to advise the Government about the frontier."

The London *Morning Post* on Friday asserted that Lord Dufferin had resigned the Viceroyship of India. On the other hand, the *News* (Government organ) asserted that he approved the settlement that had been made of the Afghan dispute. In the House of Commons on Thursday night Mr. Gladstone refused to say whether or not Lord Dufferin approved the Government's course; but on Friday Government officials denied his reported resignation. Mr. Gladstone, in reply to questions, also said that subsequent information greatly affected his original statement that the Panjdeh affair was an act of unprovoked aggression. It is reported that the attitude of the British Government is partly due to the receipt of a report from General Sir Donald Stewart, the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian forces, that it would be imprudent to undertake an expedition to Herat until a railway has been completed to the Pishcen Valley, which will take three years.

In the House of Commons on Friday afternoon Sir Stafford Northcote gave notice that he would on Monday move that the House is entitled to the fullest knowledge of the Gov-



ernment's action in regard to the Afghan dispute, and the uses to which the \$55,000,000 are to be put.

In London the statement of the *Official Messenger*, of St. Petersburg, that the Afghan dispute will be submitted to arbitration only in case of necessity, was declared semi-officially on Friday to be inaccurate. Earl Granville holds that Russia's acceptance of arbitration must be absolute. The dissatisfaction in London over the arbitration scheme grew very general by Saturday, and there were predictions that the agreement would not stand. Before arbitration is possible, it is necessary for both Cabinets to agree upon the specific details to be submitted to the arbitrator. This may consume considerable time.

At a plenary Cabinet council held on Saturday, the Admiralty was directed to cancel the orders issued to provide for the conveyance of 2,000 British troops to India. Three steamers had been chartered for this purpose and were ready to sail.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Mr. Gladstone announced that an arrangement had been concluded between England and Russia on the Afghan frontier dispute which was alike satisfactory to Her Majesty's Government and the Earl of Dufferin, Viceroy of India. He hoped that the arrangement would be made the subject of a convention with Russia. A similar announcement was made in the House of Lords. Lord Hartington, Secretary for War, stated that the decision reached by the Government in regard to the Sudan practically involved the abandonment of the advance to Khartum. The Government had resolved to make Wady Halfa the most advanced position as a permanent defence of Egypt. The British troops would be withdrawn as soon as the Nile rose. It is expected that the rising will occur about the end of May. The withdrawal of the troops involved the abandonment of the engagement to advance to Khartum. This statement was received with cheers from the Government benches.

As soon as Mr. Gladstone finished his statement in the House of Commons on Monday night on the Afghan agreement, the Conservatives began a bitter attack on the Government. Lord George Hamilton moved consideration of the amendment to the Consolidated Fund Bill, refusing assent to the bill "until informed of the present policy and purpose for which the money to be granted is to be applied." Lord George said: "The Secretary of State for War has just made the most extraordinary statement which ever fell from a Minister in this House. After announcing their intention of taking Khartum, the Government have announced the abandonment of the Sudan after having murdered 6,000 or 10,000 men. The great objection I have to the Premier's policy is that from the very day he assumed office until now, he has shown a readiness to sacrifice anybody and anything to save himself." After speeches by Mr. Chamberlain and Sir Stafford Northcote, Mr. Gladstone made a telling speech, in which he said that the Opposition had pressed the motion without waiting for the promised papers, and made up for their deficiency of knowledge by a variety of baseless suppositions. When the papers were presented it might appear that Sir Peter Lumsden had returned in full conformity with the Government's policy, and that a frontier had been secured through the friendly relations between Lord Dufferin and the Amir. Lord Randolph Churchill spoke in favor of the motion, but was less bitter than usual. He, with Sir Stafford Northcote, denied that the Conservatives were the war party. Lord George Hamilton's motion was defeated by a vote of 290 to 260. The majority consisted entirely of Liberals. The Parnellites voted with the minority.

On Tuesday the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the House of Commons that about \$35,000,000 of the \$55,000,000 vote of credit had already been absorbed. The Channel Tunnel Bill was defeated on Tuesday

by 281 to 99, the Government opposing it. The motion of Sir Edward Massey Lopes, to insert a clause in the Registration Act, charging the expenses of registry on the general treasury, was then called up. After a strong speech against it by Mr. Gladstone it was rejected by a vote of 280 to 258. The Government's majority of 22 was obtained by threats of resignation if they were not sustained. The Parnellites voted against the Government.

It is reported that the British Government have decided to drop the question of renewing the Crimes Act for Ireland, and to revive the milder Peace Preservation Act which expired in 1880. The opposition of Mr. Joseph Chamberlain in the Cabinet is partly credited with this result.

An Irish Local Government Bill will probably be introduced in Parliament before the close of the present session. The new measure provides for popularly elected councils in each county, whose duty it shall be to conduct the administration of business hitherto relegated to grand juries. Provision is also made for a central council in Dublin, to be elected by the county councils. This council will discharge the functions of the Boards of Education and Public Works, etc. It is also meditated to abolish the Lord Lieutenantcy and create a Secretary of State for Ireland, but this is still undecided.

Baron Fitzgerald, the London *Globe* understands, will be appointed Lord Chancellor of Ireland. Baron Fitzgerald is a Liberal, has been Solicitor-General and Attorney-General for Ireland, and Justice of the Queen's Bench. He is seventy years of age, and was appointed a Lord of Appeal-in-Ordinary in 1882, with a peerage for life.

Mr. Errington, the English representative at the Vatican, failing to persuade the Pope to appoint Dr. Walsh to the vacant Archbishopric of Dublin, has left for London for consultation with the British Government. The Pope, it is said, had to consult the wishes of the Irish clergy in the matter.

The Anglo-German International Commission appointed to arrange the terms of occupation of British and German colonies in the Pacific Ocean has concluded its labors. It is arranged that British subjects shall be on perfect equality with those of Germany in the territory recently seized by the latter Power, and that Germans shall be on perfect equality with British subjects in New Guinea. No differential duties are to be imposed. The importation of arms, powder, and alcohol is prohibited, and the Solomon, New Hebrides, Friendly, and Navigators' Islands are to remain open territory. The status of Samoa remains unsettled.

The corporation of Worcester, England, on Wednesday, presented Mr. Lowell with an illuminated address, expressing regret at his departure from the post of United States Minister to England, and eulogizing his literary aid to the Worcester Library. Mr. Lowell spoke in high terms of his successor, and said he was confident Mr. Phelps would do all in his power to maintain the cordial relations existing between England and the United States.

William Ward, the first Earl of Dudley, is dead. He was sixty-eight years of age, was a Liberal Conservative, was enormously wealthy, and eccentric to the point of insanity.

Mrs. Weldon was on Thursday awarded \$50,000 damages by the Sheriff's Court in London, in her suit against M. Gounod, the composer, for libel, slander, breach of contract, and assault.

Reports reach Dongola that the Mahdi's forces have suffered fresh defeats at the hands of the insurgents in Kordofan, aided by the garrison at Senaar. The remnant of the Mahdi's forces has retreated to Abu Haraz. The Mahdi himself is at Umderman, near Khartum, but he has only a few troops with him and is unable to send reinforcements against the insurgents. The delay in the Bri-

tish evacuation of the Sudan is due to Lord Wolsley's opposition.

A large force of British and Indian troops and friendly natives under General Graham marched out from Suakin at midnight on May 5 to Takool, where they surprised and defeated 400 rebels, killing 150 of them and capturing twelve prisoners and 150 head of cattle. After burning the village they retired to Suakin, fighting continuing until they had passed Hasheen. The British loss was five wounded.

The French Chamber of Deputies on Thursday adopted, by a vote of 308 to 57, the treaty concluded on August 21, 1883, between France and Anam. It has virtually been in force for eighteen months.

It is reported that China will dethrone the King of Anam for intriguing with Cambodia against France.

Signor Mancini, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, has resigned. Prime Minister Depretis will assume the duties of the office.

Count Tolstoi, the Russian Minister of the Interior, is suffering from an attack of melancholia. It is believed that he will die.

Baron von Schaeffer, the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Washington, has, it is reported, been instructed by his Government to object to the appointment of Mr. Keiley as United States Minister to Vienna.

Ferdinand Hiller, the celebrated German composer and pianist, died on Monday at the age of seventy-four. He was the author of more than 200 musical compositions, including six operas.

The two rebel leaders, Portazal and Cocobolo, who advised and assisted Prestan in the burning of Colon and who have been held prisoners on the *Galena*, were delivered on Wednesday morning to General Reyes, commander in chief of the Colombian forces, by Commander Kane of the *Galena*. They were immediately tried by court-martial and sentenced to death, and in the afternoon were hanged on the spot where the rebels had started the fire which destroyed the city. This action has already had a salutary effect on the rebels. Prestan is now besieging Carthagena.

General Middleton's forces engaged in a field fight with Riel's rebels all day Saturday, near Batoche. The list of killed and wounded among Riel's forces is believed to be very large. The attack was brought on soon after daylight on Saturday. The Grenadiers advanced as skirmishers, and Battery A supported them, pouring hot shot from a ridge down on the rebels. While they were doing so a number of rebels crept stealthily up through the bush, escaping observation until they were within twenty yards or less of the battery. When they were discovered they made a wild charge for the guns. At this point Captain Howard, of the Second Regiment, Connecticut National Guards, who is with the Canadians in charge of the Gatling Battery, saw the danger, and promptly took measures which saved the Canadian troops great loss of life, if not utter rout. With cool daring he ran a Gatling gun in front of the battery, and, opening a rapid, skilful fire, he sent a shower of bullets into the rebels. At 6 o'clock, after 12 hours' fighting, the Canadians camped for the night where they fought.

A political indignation meeting was held at Toronto on Friday night for the purpose of considering the Franchise Bill proposed to be passed by Sir John Macdonald, Premier of Canada. The bill was condemned in unmeasured terms, and it was stated that the province of Ontario would withdraw from the confederation before its people would submit to such despotism as was proposed by the bill.

Emma, Queen Dowager of the Sandwich Islands, died there on April 25, at the age of forty-nine. She was the wife of King Kamehameha IV., and was a candidate for the throne after the death of Lunaliilo.

## THE SHORT VERDICT.

THE jury in the Short case have been very severely criticised for acquitting him, by the judge, as well as by a portion of the press. They have, however, a very strong defence against all fault-finding. In the first place, they were a very intelligent and respectable body of men—three Germans and nine Americans—none of them having the smallest sympathy with the gang to which both the prisoner and prosecutor belonged. In fact, considering the way juries are made up under the existing law, it is a wonder that in a case like Short's so good a one was found. In the next place, the evidence that Phelan went to O'Donovan's office in a fighting temper and got into a fight there with Short, and was worsted—owing to Short's being too quick for him, getting hold of a knife on the table, and seizing Phelan's arm before he could draw his pistol—was overwhelming. Several witnesses gave it. Some of them had every appearance of being perfectly trustworthy men; but whether they were or not, no attempt whatever was made by the prosecution to impeach their testimony in a single particular. The only evidence on the other side was Phelan's, and this was fatally damaged in the eyes of the jury, both by the man's own air and by the positive testimony of the lieutenant of the Capitol police that he had been dismissed from that force owing to the badness of his character, and that he would under no circumstances believe him on his oath. There was nothing whatever to corroborate Phelan's story except his scars, which were exposed in court to the jury. These showed clearly, however, that he had received the blows of the knife in front, and in front only. Moreover, the prosecution produced nothing whatever against Short's character. Finally, the jury had no alternative but to convict the prisoner of assault with intent to kill or to acquit him. They were instructed, with great distinctness, that they must find him guilty or not guilty of the particular offence with which he was charged, and not of an offence less heinous. They could not convict him of fighting with murderous weapons, or anything of that sort. They therefore could not express their opinion of Short's conduct in any way. Their verdict simply contained their belief that he had not gone to O'Donovan Rossa's office and attacked Phelan, without provocation, with the design of assassinating him. He may have done so, but there was no proof of it. What called forth Judge Van Brunt's expression of condemnation of the verdict we do not know, but the unseemly yells with which the friends of the cut-throats who crowded the room received it, probably had something to do with ruffling his temper.

Judge Van Brunt writes to the *Times*, declaring that the case of the People against Short was "presented with the greatest care, skill, and courage, and that nothing was omitted by the prosecution which, in any degree, tended to prevent this gross miscarriage of justice." This is, of course, very high testimony to the efficiency of the prosecution, but unfortunately it is not the highest. The object of a criminal prosecution, under our system of jurisprudence, is not to win the approval of the judge for the

prosecuting officer, but to convince the jury. If the prosecuting officer fails to accomplish this, his conduct of the case is simply so much rhetorical gymnastics. In the present instance the jury was not convinced, and we are therefore forced to conclude either that the prosecution was inefficient, or that the jury was unusually stupid, or very corrupt. This stupidity or corruption is what the Judge must mean when he describes the verdict as "a gross miscarriage of justice," and he ought to say it in plain terms. But he would have great difficulty in proving it. One of the jury, Mr. Woods, is a member of the Governing Committee of the Cotton Exchange, and tries nearly as many cases in the course of the year, probably, as Judge Van Brunt himself, and in point of integrity stands just as high in the community. He describes himself as having gone into court believing Short guilty, but he changed his mind on hearing the evidence. Moreover, if the jury had been divided, it would perhaps be easy to obtain credence for the theory that some of them had been corrupted or frightened. That the whole twelve were led astray in this way, however, is hard to swallow. As between such a jury as this one, and such a prosecuting officer as Colonel Fellows, Judge Van Brunt, with great respect be it said, would have acted with more decorum if he had refrained from writing to the newspapers to decide which was to blame, in a case tried before himself, for a miscarriage of justice. The character of the jurors for integrity and courage and perspicacity is just as dear to them, and ought to be an object of as much solicitude to the Court, as Colonel Fellows's character for care and skill. We may make the same criticism on District-Attorney Martine's outpourings to the reporters.

That the case was feebly pushed by the District Attorney's office was manifest to many who watched the trial. No attempt was made to break down the testimony of Short's witnesses, or to show Short's character. The cross-examination of them was not effective, and nothing was done to fortify Phelan's story or protect his reputation. Here is the real root of the difficulty in dealing with this sort of ruffians in this city. The trial is useful in one way, in showing us what would probably happen if an attempt were made to bring O'Donovan Rossa and Pat Ford to justice for collecting money to be used in procuring murder and arson. That they have both been doing this for a considerable time, there is no doubt. In fact, they have gloried in it. But an attempt to punish them for it would undoubtedly fail. In the first place, there would be great difficulty in procuring witnesses whom anybody would believe, or who would not be contradicted by the same number of other witnesses equally reliable. In the second place, there would be a want of vigor in the District Attorney's office in pushing any prosecution against Irishmen for offences even remotely connected with politics, and especially English politics, and in New York there is a touch of politics in every row or crime in which Irishmen are concerned. Every Irish criminal is more or less of a politician, and insists on the support of his party when he gets into "trouble." Moreover, this is an excellent period for Irish crime, inasmuch as both the

leading political parties are more or less disposed to compete for the privilege of winking at it. The Irish vote was won over by the Blaineites last fall by barefaced flattery of the dynamiters and incendiaries and murderers, and by promises of support to the Catholic clergy in their efforts to get at least part possession of the public schools. The Democrats cannot make up their minds to write the Irish off as a dead loss, but still hanker after them, and are disposed to pardon their little eccentricities in the matter of cutting, shooting, and blowing up. The Irish, 'cutely enough, do not declare themselves, and prefer to remain an uncertain quantity between now and the fall election, so that the Phelans and Shorts and Rossas are literally in clover.

The proceedings in court bore every sign of an understanding of some sort with the dynamiters that they were not to be criticised, impeached, or their den unroofed, or, in other words, that nothing was to be said in court tending to expose or discredit them. That a gang of men should have been allowed to come into an American court-room to bear witness about a crime committed by one of their number, in the room in which they meet daily to plot murder and hire murderers, and raise money to pay the expenses of the murderers, and not one word should have been said to them or to the jury by the officers of the law, touching their designs or pursuits, is surely a national disgrace. That this should be followed by an apparent attempt to persuade the public that business men of high standing, who happened to serve on the jury, were in a league with the dynamiters to procure the escape of the criminal, is, however, something more than a disgrace. It is a piece of charlatany which calls for punishment, and will receive it. Mr. Martine must not persuade himself that this little performance of his is not making a profound impression on that portion of the public to which he owed his election, or that it will be forgotten should he have the audacity to seek any other place of trust or emolument. We supported him last fall in the belief that he was a man of high professional as well as personal character. We felt, however, on his reappointing Colonel Fellows as his assistant that there was to be plenty of "politics" as well as law in the office, for Colonel Fellows is nothing if not a politician; and that if the office were by any accident brought into collision with the Irish dynamiters and assassins, there would be but little chance that justice would be done. Our anticipations have been fully realized, but Mr. Martine must not flatter himself that his tricks are performed under a bushel.

## THE SUEZ CANAL CONFERENCE.

THE Suez Canal Conference has reached the interesting stage at which some decision must be had upon the neutrality, or otherwise, of the lands immediately adjoining its banks and of the waters in close vicinity to its approaches. These are questions of the deepest interest to ourselves, since the conclusions reached by the Conference will constitute the highest form of precedent in dealing with the Panama Canal, if it is ever finished, or with any other in-



terocceanic water way in Central America. Any such canal will, like the Suez, concern the commerce of the whole civilized world, and must have substantially the same place in the eye of public law. The object of the Conference is to define and prescribe what is meant by neutrality, as applied to an artificial water way of international character and importance: how neutrality is to be assured, and to what things it is to be restricted. Right here comes the inquiry whether any such canal can be really neutralized without the concerted action of the great Powers? Can the United States *alone* neutralize either the Panama or the Nicaragua Canals? Can we legislate on that matter for England, Germany, and France? We can promise to protect either canal, or the State of Panama or Nicaragua, if assailed by any nation; but how can we put another nation under the promise and duty not to assail, or carry on war, in the canal? We can *promise* that Panama as a State, and Nicaragua as a State, and either canal, shall be neutral, and we can keep the promise if we have the physical power. But what if we have not the power?

The Suez Canal is in a somewhat different situation from that in which the Panama Canal will be, since Panama, barring revolutions, is more under the control of her local government than Egypt is. The Panama concession is not international in the sense that the Suez concession is. Panama, as a State, has not been swept under the control of the European concert as Egypt has been. But the questions relating to the free navigation of each canal will be much the same. England has relations to Suez not unlike those which the United States would have to Panama, aside from the Clayton-Bulwer convention. How shall each be neutralized or internationalized? Will it be sufficient to neutralize the water way without making of a portion of Egypt alongside of it, and of the waters at either end, a sort of mimic Belgium or Switzerland, where, by the agreement of all the Powers, war shall never come? Shall the same be done in Panama and in Nicaragua?

In the end, and before these great questions can be finally and satisfactorily settled as to Panama and Nicaragua, there will be a very thorough overhauling of the principles and the policy that inspired the Clayton-Bulwer convention, its renunciation by the contracting parties of dominion in Central America, and its plan of neutralization. Was the plan good or was it bad? Was it statesmanlike or the opposite? Was it for the benefit or the injury of the United States? Was the maintenance of the "general principle" described therein to depend solely on carrying out the "particular object" of the treaty, which was the construction of a Nicaragua Canal under the concession of 1849? Were the two sets of obligation—one relating to the particular canal and the other to all future canals—separate, or were they mutually interdependent? Did not the contracting parties wish and really intend, in 1850, to accomplish both objects? General Cass again and again declared that what he and the Democratic party wished was "the security and *neutrality* of the inter-oceanic routes." Certainly the United States sought the coöperation of England in 1850.

Again and again did American statesmen, from 1850 to 1861, repudiate the wish to put the control of the canals under any one Power. That suggestion was first formulated by Mr. Blaine. General Cass explicitly repudiated the idea in his note to Lord Napier of November 8, 1858. If the Clayton-Bulwer treaty be torn up, will not England recover its liberty of action in Panama and in Nicaragua? How can the United States alone, or England alone, guarantee and maintain "the *perfect neutrality*" of any interoceanic canal? What injury to the United States can come from the coöperation of England, France, Germany, Russia, Italy, Spain, and China, in the effort to neutralize a canal anywhere in Central America, together with enough of the territory on its sides and the approaches by water at either end?

Those questions are not simple ones; on the contrary, they are very complicated. But they must be soberly dealt with, and answered in our day. Neutralization, by the aid of Europe, of the Central American canals is the reverse of interference with the canals. It is a promise to abstain from interference with the owner of the canal and the collector of tolls thereon. It is not unlikely that Minister Phelps has received instructions to give immediate attention to these most interesting questions and come to a satisfactory understanding with England concerning them. Meanwhile, what is going on in Paris over the Suez Canal is of the highest importance, and it is to be hoped that Mr. McLane may be speedily at his post of observation.

#### GLADSTONE'S CRITICS.

ONE of the strangest episodes in the crisis through which the British Ministry is passing is the abuse which is being heaped on Mr. Gladstone just now. In his speech, when asking for the vote of \$55,000,000, which won so much applause, he was most distinct and emphatic in his declarations that the Government was in "a state of preparation" simply; that in other words he was getting ready for war, not because the peace negotiations had failed, but lest they should fail. Nothing has since occurred to falsify this declaration. The negotiations have been going on ever since. Of their nature it is safe to say nothing is known. That the Ministry has surrendered any claim it ever made, or that it has failed to make any claim it was ever expected to make, are charges which rest on nothing but the vapors of the Russian press. To reveal the various steps in the negotiations would, of course, work infinite mischief. They have, in the excited state of the public mind in both countries, to be kept secret in order to succeed at all. Consequently nobody outside the inner official circles knows anything about them to complain of.

What Gladstone's assailants, therefore, really mean to complain of is, that, having got the money to prepare for war, he does not use it to go to war at once. There seems, in fact, to be an insane delusion running through the public mind in England, that whatever is wrong in the present situation will be set right by the mere fact of fighting. People seem to think that if Russia be attacked by land and sea, all danger to India will be at once removed. Vámbéry is apparently fully possessed with this

belief. He thinks the best time to fight is now; but the experience of all wars between adversaries of equal or nearly equal strength shows that the best time to fight is when you cannot help it—that is, when you are actually attacked. No belligerent has probably ever yet lost anything by waiting till the enemy drew the sword. Nothing is more dangerous in a war which has to be carried on by popular support than fighting without a distinct object. If England attacks Russia now, without a definite and tangible object in view, she may fight for years without making the war profit her anything in the eyes of the world. Suppose, for instance, she should fight because Russia will not promise to abstain from seizing Herat. Suppose that, at the end of a long and bloody struggle, Russia should make the desired promise, what greater value would it have than her promise not to seize Khiva or Merv? If on the other hand England should go to war to secure Herat for herself, what would be the value of position there, with the cunning Abdurrahman Khan and the ferocious and unfriendly Afghans lining her communications with India? The Russians would not be driven away from Sarakhs, or Merv, or the Caspian Sea. They would remain to threaten Herat continually, and to intrigue with the Persians and Afghans, and the war party in England would be continually calling on the Government to chastise them for some fresh menace or breach of faith.

On the other hand, if the Russians commit some overt act of attack about the nature and object of which there is no mistake, such, for instance, as an invasion of Afghanistan, or a march toward India, all that will be needed to make fighting fruitful in prestige, will be to defeat and stop them. The Powers are playing a game in which each seeks to impress the Asiatic populations with the idea that it is the greater of the two. In such a game, the aggressor undoubtedly runs the greater risk, for in war, even more distinctly than in law, the man in possession is the best off.

That Mr. Gladstone thus far has been working to make Russia plainly the aggressor, there is no reason, so far as the facts are known, to doubt. In negotiating, too, he probably has in mind not simply the state of English opinion now, but the probable state of English opinion after two or three years of bootless slaughter and devastation. It is this latter condition of the public mind which every statesman who is tempted to try war has to think most of. Nothing is more evanescent and unreliable than the mood in which a nation takes up arms. It is always passionate, unreasoning, vainglorious, and evanescent. When the sober second thought comes, nothing but sudden and overwhelming successes such as Bismarck achieved against Austria in 1866, and against France in 1870, can, in our day, save a minister who begins a war from unpopularity or discredit. It may be that the English Liberals are making a mess of the Russian complication, but the materials for a judgment about it do not yet exist.

#### ENGLAND: THE REDISTRIBUTION OF PARLIAMENTARY SEATS.

LONDON, May 2.

WHILE the thoughts of the English have been constantly occupied for the last three months by

the affairs of Sudan and Afghanistan, the time of Parliament has been chiefly spent on the bill for the redistribution of seats, a measure which, as the necessary complement of the extension of the franchise, has to be passed before the next general election can be held. As your readers will remember, it is based upon the scheme settled on by the leaders of both parties in secret conference last November, and therefore is not a controversial bill, but one to which the general support of both Tories and Liberals has been given. It has thus made far more rapid progress than an opposed measure could, under our Parliamentary rules, with their infinite opportunities for obstruction, hope to accomplish. Yet even with this advantage, it has not yet reached the stage of third reading in the House of Commons, although the Government have obtained for it the whole available time of the House, to the complete exclusion of private members, who, during this whole session, have been unable to bring forward either motions or bills. From such a fact it is easy to see how enormous would have been the expenditure of time had its details been fought over with our usual party acrimony. That its passing may be now confidently looked for is due to the compromise effected between Mr. Gladstone and Lord Salisbury; and this has reconciled people in Parliament, and still more out of Parliament, to a method of proceeding without precedent in our history, and open to the imputation of seriously trenching on the independence of the Legislature. It has also gone far to reconcile ardent reformers to the deficiencies in the present measure. They see that it marks an advance larger than could have been looked for by means of an ordinary party struggle, and they are content to put up with not getting everything when they perceive that they have got more than anybody, seven months ago, expected.

The debates on the bill have turned almost wholly on points of detail, not very interesting even to English politicians, and not worth the attention of people outside England. Much time has been consumed over the question of naming the new divisions of counties and boroughs. One set of persons wished to call these divisions by the points of the compass—north, northeast, southwest, and so forth. Others preferred to name them from the chief town lying within their area, or from some old local appellation. There was much to be said for both views; and in some places one was more convenient, in other places the other. The controversy has been temporarily settled, in a truly English fashion, by allowing both sorts of names to be used alternately. In Warwickshire, for instance, the divisions are to be called "The Northern or Tamworth Division," "The Northeastern or Nuneaton Division," "The Southwestern or Stratford-on-Avon Division," "The Southeastern or Rugby Division." Here the four town names commemorate four eminent persons respectively, for Sir Robert Peel was member for Tamworth and lived near it; George Eliot is associated with Nuneaton; Stratford is a place of pilgrimage to all the world, while Dr. Arnold and his biographer Dean Stanley, have given some little share of fame to the quiet country town of Rugby. More sentiment than might have been expected from a usually prosaic nation has come out in the eagerness to get hold of historic names for the divisions—St. Augustine and Isle of Thanet, in Kent; Gower, in Glamorganshire, are instances—while in some cases amusingly warm contests have arisen between two towns, each of which sought to give its name to the division, and spared no pains in canvassing members by letters, and circulars, and inter-

views to procure their support for its claims. American readers may be surprised to hear that among the devices for naming that have been put forward, no one proposed to number the divisions. Names drawn from numbers are an abomination to the Briton. Streets are never so called, nor churches (except rarely in Scotland), nor local government areas. Even regiments in the army contrive to find some other title than merely that of their number, and now they are officially called from counties.

In another point, however, which has much occupied us in England, there has appeared a far greater coincidence between the views of Englishmen and Americans than might have been predicted. When the Redistribution Bill was presented in December last, its most novel feature was the general adoption of the plan of single-membered constituencies; a plan foreign to the old constitution of England, which gave two members to each borough and each county, and used, ever since the Reform Bill of 1832, only in the case of boroughs and counties obviously too small to have more than one representative. To cut up every county into districts, with one member each, and to destroy the Parliamentary unity of the great cities by splitting them up into ward divisions, each returning one member, seemed an innovation sure to provoke discontent and opposition. Nothing of the sort has happened. Some few persons here and there, mostly persons of a critical or philosophical turn of mind, have murmured their fears that an inferior set of men will get into Parliament through these ward constituencies, which will in many cases consist wholly of poor people. But the active local politicians, Tories and Liberals both, have welcomed a change which makes them more important in their several spheres. Moreover, the Tories have hoped to secure the county divisions by the influence of local landowners, and to win those parts of the great towns in which the wealthier classes reside, while the Liberals have concluded that the multiplication of town districts will increase their party strength. Local feeling, always a potent force, has rejoiced in the additional dignity which a local area receives when it has one member all to itself, instead of a share in two or three members. Thus the general voice of the country has approved, and there is small likelihood that we shall ever go back, as the French are doing now, from small to larger electoral districts.

One consequence of this unforeseen development of opinion was to "snuff out," to use a familiar phrase, the agitation for what is called proportional representation. Several persons of eminence, politicians of a speculative cast of mind, had taken up the old idea of Mr. J. S. Mill and Mr. Thomas Hare that a fairer representation of the nation would be obtained by permitting the voter, in voting for a number of candidates, to declare his wish to transfer his votes from his first candidates, if already elected, to some other candidates, than by the plan hitherto employed of voting simply for A and B (if there are two persons to be chosen), or A, B, and C (if there are three). They propounded a scheme which they deemed sufficiently plain and practical for common use, and stumped the country during the months of January and February on its behalf, winning, by their evident earnestness, much respect and even some little sympathy. Believing the nation to be averse to one-membered districts, they hoped to get their scheme adopted as the alternative to such districts, because it would enable large constituencies to be retained, and yet protect the minority in those constituencies. But as their belief proved to be groundless, their hopes were wrecked. People accepted the one-membered districts will-

ingly, and found the proportional scheme—that of the transferable vote, as it was called—hard to understand, and liable to uncertainty in its working. One night was allowed them to expound their views to the House of Commons, but the debate was dull, and the support they obtained on a division too small to justify perseverance in the enterprise. For the present, the notion has been dropped, although some of its apostles profess to believe that before long the defects of the new one-membered system will recall attention to its claims, and give it a prospect of success.

The division of counties and boroughs into new electoral districts raised a large crop of very delicate questions, because it was in many cases plain that the political complexion of the new constituency would depend on the boundaries allotted to it—upon the particular streets or parishes which it was made to include. Here was matter for abundant and strenuous controversy between the parties. To avoid dispute it was arranged between the leaders of the Government and the Opposition that a body of boundary commissioners should be named—persons above suspicion of partisanship—who should determine the limits of the new electoral districts, following as much as possible existing limits, such as those of parishes, wards, sessional divisions, and other areas for the purposes of local government. These commissioners completed their work in little more than two months' time, and produced results which were received with general approbation. Here and there one political party, which thought that it suffered by the boundaries proposed, protested, not against the good faith, but against the suitability of the division. But these cases have been extremely few in England or Scotland; and as the leaders of both parties now agree to abide by the decision of the Commissioners, the arrangements made by them have been embodied in the bill with very slight variations. In Ireland similar acquiescence could not be expected. The Orangemen complain that they will obtain scanty representation in that island, the Protestant minority in the southwest and centre being swamped in almost every constituency by the Roman Catholic majority, because, large as it is collectively, it is a minority in each locality. The Nationalists, on the other hand, accuse the Commissioners of having gerrymandered several districts so as to secure to the Protestants more than their fair share of members. England and Scotland look on quietly, and suppose that the Commissioners must have behaved pretty honestly since they are assailed with equal warmth from opposite quarters. In point of fact, the proportion of Protestants to Catholics in the population of Ireland is likely to be fairly represented by the proportion which Protestants will bear to Catholics in the new Parliament. Considering the extreme delicacy of the operation, and the keenness with which parties are wont to contest every possible electoral gain, it is much to the credit of Great Britain that the bill has gone so smoothly through, and in particular that this question of boundaries has been so peaceably disposed of. If English statesmen on both sides were as skilful in our foreign as they have latterly been in our domestic affairs, we should deserve the envy of Europe.

Y.

## Correspondence.

### HOMER'S COLOR PERCEPTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your contributor's review of my book is so cordial and appreciative that it would appear



ungrateful in me to reply to any part of it in a controversial spirit, and I have no wish to do so; but I should like to point out that the difference of opinion between your critic and myself on the subject of Homer's perception of color is not so great as he seems to believe. Toward the close of my chapter on "Land and Sea in the Odyssey" I have been careful to observe that the limitation of Homer's color vocabulary may have been due to the narrowness of that vocabulary in his time, and that when such a vocabulary was very narrow, "a man of genius might be unable to express the variety of his own sensations." My conclusion was that Homer's perceptions of color were primitive and often indeterminate, but that "the exact degree of a poet's sensitiveness can hardly be ascertained when we have only his writings, and he himself had no terms at his disposal outside the meagre nomenclature of his time." This, I think, is much nearer to your reviewer's own opinion than to the theory of Magnus. When I say that Homer's perceptions were primitive and often indeterminate, I mean no more than that they may have resembled the perceptions of people in our own time who have not been trained to distinguish tints by the practice of some color-art. I imagine him to have been very much in the position of some Gaelic bard in the Highlands of Scotland, using the word "black" for any dark shade of anything, but still probably able to distinguish better if he were put to it, without, however, approaching the delicate distinctions of painters. I myself had instanced, as examples of inadequately distinctive language, the use of "black wine" for red wine by the Italians, and of "white wine" for sherry by the English. Undoubtedly the Italians and English are able to see that these wines are not black like coal, and white as milk is white. In a word, I am not conscious of any important difference of opinion between me and your reviewer on the subject.

May I say a word in defence of the binder? Your reviewer thinks that the binding of the large-paper copies is "rather flimsy," and suggests that purchasers will probably have it removed. The binding in question is of strong, sound, real vellum, and is very durable. As I had nothing to do with the design, I may say that it is at least in simple and severe taste. The only objection to white vellum bindings that I am aware of is that they are easily soiled.

Sincerely yours,

P. G. HAMERTON.

AUTUM, April 27, 1885.

#### A STILL MORE YOUTHFUL JUDGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: It is odd that the *Nation*, in instancing youthful judges, should have overlooked so conspicuous a case as that of Joseph Story, who was younger even than Johnson when appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States. His son says, in his biography of the Judge, that, with the exception of Buller, who was made an associate of Mansfield at the same age, Story was the youngest man who ever took so high a place in England or America. Like Johnson, he had been three terms in the State Legislature, and he had served, besides, for part of a term in Congress. Story, to be sure, was only nine days younger than Johnson was at the date of his appointment, but that is enough to give Massachusetts the lead of South Carolina.

BOSTON.

May 6, 1885.

#### THE MISUSED H.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Some remarks in the last number of the *Nation*, criticising Mr. Proctor's article on "The

Misused H of England," suggest the following lines from Catullus:

"Chommoda dicebat, si quando commoda vellet  
Dicere, et hincillas Arrius hincillas:  
Et tum mirifice sperabat se esse locutum,  
Cum, quantum poterat, dixerat hincillas.

Hoc misso in Syriam, requierant omnibus aures,  
Audiebant eadem hæc leniter et leviter.  
Nec sibi postilla metuebant talia verba,  
Cum subito affertur nuntius horribilis,  
Ionios ductus, postquam illuc Arriusisset,  
Jam non Ionios esse, sed Hionios."

—Carmen Læciv.

The words "*quantum poterat*," 'with all his might,' would certainly seem to indicate that the H in question may have come about by way of emphasis. As for "umble" and "humble," if we find the former more emphatic, is it not simply because any peculiarity of speech has for us an emphasis which we do not find in the more usual form?

M. D.

ROXBURY, MASS., May 11, 1885.

#### THE POPULAR VIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your correspondent, "J. H.," has brought out so forcibly one element of the political situation that I cannot refrain from noticing it. He says that in Washington the office-seeker will tell you that there is a suppressed murmur rising up from the people which will shortly break into a terrible yell or howl, and this because the President is moving too slowly in the matter of distribution of offices, and the people will not stand it. On the other hand, he says that the people are more than satisfied with the Administration; that they care as little about the supposed grievances of the office-seekers as do the office-seekers about the real welfare and good of the country.

The truth is, that the people do not understand the simply awful situation in which the President is placed. It is not merely that he has to resist the pressure from his own party. It is admitted that where Republican officials have been unfaithful he has a right to displace them, and in filling the vacancies it is almost impossible that he should not consider party claims. Thus all over the United States he has to balance the evidence for turning one man out and then the evidence for putting another man in, and all this under the most tremendous pressure. If he makes a mistake and puts in a Pillsbury or a Higgins, not merely the Republicans, but the Independents, whom he is naturally anxious to please, turn upon him, as witness the letter of "B." immediately following that of "J. H." in your last issue. And he has to bear it all in silence, being unable to utter a word publicly, either of himself or by his Cabinet officers, in his own defence. It is no wonder that we hear that his health is not as good as it was, or that when he goes to Gettysburg he seems weary and depressed and declines to make a speech. I watch such reports with intense anxiety, believing that the strain is more than mortal strength can bear. And then to have the papers attribute his failure of interest at Gettysburg to want of patriotism! Verily the bed at the White House is not one of roses.

The only effective remedy in this case, also, is to be found in Cabinet responsibility. I would not detract from the credit of the civil-service reformers. They have done a great work in arousing public sentiment and in establishing the Commission. But I think they would themselves admit that their strength at this juncture is in the character of the President. Had he been other than what he is, their fabric would have been swept to the winds. The responsibility for every appointment now comes back upon the defenceless President. If the Cabinet

officers had to stand up at intervals in Congress, and were subject to question upon notice by any individual member, each Secretary would have to explain any doubtful appointments in his own department; and the liability to this in the case of bad appointments would be so disagreeable that it would soon become easier to refuse than to yield. In fact, the Cabinet would soon become the most earnest and efficient apostles of civil-service reform, as relieving them from a burdensome responsibility. It was precisely in this way and for this reason that the Ministry of Lord Aberdeen, in 1853, forced civil-service reform upon a reluctant Parliament.

I can fancy some of your readers exclaiming that if the President had the toothache, "G. R." would say that it was because the Cabinet officers were not in Congress. After joining heartily in the laughter, I beg to point out the limits of my position. The reform proposed applies to all, and only all, which is included in the comprehensive word "administration." The curse and the danger of this country is that there is too much hap-hazard legislation and too little administration, the case being far worse with the local governments than with that of the United States. The public and individual responsibility of the chief executive officers being held to be the means of reforming administration, its advantages can be illustrated by everything which has to do with administration—that is, by every phase of the political side of society. It seems almost impossible to make people understand the nature of such a reform in the States and cities, but the chain of administration in the Federal Government is otherwise so admirable, that if this one connecting link can be made to bring legislation and administration into harmonious action, there will be a passion for similar local reforms; and if they can be successfully effected, our popular Government, which is staggering under the burden of defective administration, will start on a fresh career of prosperity and success.

G. R.

BOSTON, May 9, 1885.

#### THE WEST-POINT OATH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: A letter recently appeared in the *Fayetteville (Tenn.) Observer*, written by Mr. J. W. Newman, a lawyer of that town, from which the following extract is taken:

"In 1870 Col. J. H. Holman, who had been an officer in the old army and had resigned, and in 1861 went into the rebellion as Lieutenant-Colonel of the First Tennessee (Confederate) Regiment, was elected Attorney-General of the Sixth Judicial Circuit of Tennessee. Soon thereafter, and after entering upon his duties as Attorney-General, he was indicted in the Federal Court at Nashville for holding office in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment. He plead in abatement of the writ (ex-Governor Marks, of Tennessee, being his attorney) the fact that he had never taken an oath as officer in the United States army 'to support the Constitution of the United States,' that the only oath he had taken was the oath copied above from Dunlop. The War Department at Washington furnished him an exemplified copy of his oath and he went to trial upon it. The Court sustained Col. Holman's plea and quashed the indictment. The District-Attorney-General, Mr. McPhail Smith, appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, from which court it was dismissed by the Attorney-General of the United States without a hearing. So it will be seen the question is *res adjudicata*, and Mr. Garland need not have pleaded the eligibility of Mr. Lawton on the ground of 'pardon,' but might have put it with equal force upon the ground of his not being amenable to the penalties of the Fourteenth Amendment."

The oath referred to is the following, and it is the one which was prescribed for officers and soldiers before the late war:

"I, A. B., do solemnly swear, or affirm (as the

case may be), that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States of America, and that I will serve them honestly and faithfully against their enemies or opposers whomsoever; and that I will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the Rules and Articles of War."

At the time General Lawton entered the Military Academy in 1835, cadets were not required to take an oath, but they, "in the presence of the Superintendent or some one deputed by him," subscribed to an engagement of the following form:

"I, Cadet —, of the State of —, aged — years and — months, do hereby engage, with the consent of my guardian, to serve in the army of the United States for eight years, unless sooner discharged by the proper authority. And I, Cadet —, do hereby pledge my word of honor as a gentleman that I will faithfully observe the Rules and Articles of War, the Regulations for the Army, and the Regulations for the Military Academy, and that I will in like manner observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States, and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the rules and discipline of war."

In 1842 the above engagement and oath were combined into a single form, and thereafter the cadets subscribed and swore to the new form.

From the nature of the various comments made upon General Lawton's appointment, it would seem that the above decision and facts are not generally known.

S. E. TILLMAN.

WEST POINT, N. Y., May 11.

#### THE PERSONALITY OF GEORGE ELIOT TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The reviews of Mr. Cross's 'Life of George Eliot' have been nearly as interesting a study as the 'Life' itself. Without undertaking to review the reviewers, one may call attention to a special point in Lord Acton's paper in the *Nineteenth Century* for March as very suggestive.

However straitly a critic may hold himself to the consideration of George Eliot's purely literary genius, or to the question of the moral effect of her writings as such, it is impossible for him to avoid a general view of her based on a very special fact, viz., that George Eliot, being a woman of immense talent and of undoubted moral purpose, deliberately defied or opposed the customs and beliefs of her generation in respect of marriage. The emphasis is unconsciously laid on the words woman, talents, morals, customs, beliefs, as the fact comes before the mind. No man can escape this general color and background. His mental retina responds to the vivid sensation in a degree and manner which depend on the sum of his own experiences and judgments.

These reviews are, then, especially interesting as truly and unconsciously representing certain typical points of view. Lord Acton's is:

"To deny herself to old friends, to earn with her pen an income for her whose place she took, to pass among strangers by a name which was not her due—all this did not seem too high a price for the happiness of a home. She urged with pathetic gravity that she knew what she was losing. She did not know it. Ostensibly she was resigning a small group of friends and an obscure position in literature. What she really sacrificed was liberty of speech and a tomb in Westminster Abbey."

It seems worth while to take this out of its general setting and to let it stand by itself as one conclusion. Is this conclusion satisfying? Is not the fault in Lord Acton's final estimate one which may have come to him by studying his author too well? Has he not entirely left out of view in his memoir, as she often did in her work, that element of the possible, the unforeseen, the unexpected which may lie just back of all that can be determined by careful, minute,

and exquisite dissection of a mind and motives? Do we not need more synthesis and more imagination here? Almost any human being will surprise us at some time with a revelation of an unexpected divinity within. We are mysteries or no mysteries according to the standard of our human judges. This view, which may seem complete on Piccadilly, might be found lacking in a desert solitude where conclusions did not press. It seems that some underlying element has been left out, and that to accept this judgment as final is slothfully to avoid the vital centre of the question which every man will ask himself, and which, so far, is left unanswered.

The one thing that the world would inwardly accept, though it would outwardly disapprove, would be the conviction that this great genius was matched by an overmastering passion as great. If this were true, the decision not to barter a present and perfect joy for a future tomb, however glorious, might not seem so irrational. The obvious meaning of the 'Life,' however, does not seem to point this way. The first, as well as the last, marriage is made to appear as if it were based on an affectionate longing for companionship and gentle daily care and love; for comfort of the mind and the affections. It is idle to deny that the vital question of George Eliot's place as a personality is here. If this place is to be called in question at all, it seems well in all respects that it should be settled on high grounds, both human and divine, and not decided by a reference to a local distinction, however marked.

X.

### Notes.

C. A. NICHOLS & Co., Springfield, Mass., have in press 'Descriptive Portraiture of Europe in Storm and Calm: Twenty Years' Experiences and Reminiscences of an American Journalist,' by Edward King. The illustrations for this book will be numerous and have been designed by Félix Régamey, the well-known Paris artist.

Jansen, McClurg & Co., Chicago, will control the American edition of an exhaustive monograph on Sappho, prepared by Henry J. Wharton, with the assistance of J. Addington Symonds. It will be issued in large and small-paper copies.

It is to be hoped that the recent regrettable failure of James R. Osgood & Co. will not materially delay the appearance of their promised 'Life, Letters, and Journals of Henry W. Longfellow,' edited by his brother, the Rev. Samuel Longfellow.

The firm of Ginn, Heath & Co. has been changed to Ginn & Co., Mr. Heath retiring. Lamb's 'Tales from Shakspere,' minus "Measure for Measure," and somewhat simplified verbally, has been added by these publishers to their 'Classics for Children.' They will issue in the same series during the present week 'Tales of a Grandfather' and the 'Swiss Family Robinson.'

The new and promising translation of 'Don Quixote,' of which the first volume has just been published by Macmillan & Co., will consist of four volumes, to appear monthly. We shall reserve comment till the work is complete in our hands.

Wisconsin is at some pains not only to preserve but to popularize its history. More than thirty years ago two volumes on that subject were compiled and published at the expense of the State by W. R. Smith, one of its prominent pioneers. But this work may be said to have ended before it began. Smith's politics were not those of the legislative majority, and so the State, which could not be sued, broke its contract with him when his narrative had only reached 1836, or the beginning of the Wisconsin territorial period. Last month,

however, commissioners were appointed by the Legislature to examine a volume embracing that period of twelve years from 1836 to 1848, written by Moses M. Strong, who has resided in Wisconsin from the outset of its territorial existence, and was from the first conspicuous among its politicians. The commissioners report that Mr. Strong's manuscript, though by no means their ideal of what such a history should be, covers ground hitherto unoccupied and so is a work of merit. Two thousand copies of an octavo in 700 pages will be printed at the public charge, and Mr. Strong's labors will be fully compensated, though he does not belong to the dominant party. The State volumes will be distributed among all libraries, institutions of higher education, and other public establishments, and preëminently through the State Historical Society in exchange with similar associations.

A trip in a boat fifteen feet long by thirty-one inches broad from Lake George to the western coast of Florida, by the way of our inland waters, was a feat requiring no little courage, skill, and endurance. Dr. C. A. Neidé and one companion started on their adventurous voyage in August, 1883, and, after considerable danger from rapids in the Ohio, the sudden and violent storms of the Mississippi, and the fogs and tremendous surf of the Gulf of Mexico, safely reached Pensacola in the following February. The story is told simply in 'The Canoe Aurora' (Forest and Stream Publishing Company), and gives us glimpses of river life hidden from the eyes of the ordinary traveller.

The semi-centennial improved edition of Dr. John Todd's 'Index Rerum' was issued two years ago (New York: Baker & Taylor). It is now freshly put out again by these publishers. Mr. James M. Hubbard, who has had the bettering of it, points out Dr. Todd's imperfect employment of his own tool when, in his illustrative examples, he made "references to writings upon slavery, probation, Christianity, and infidelity," and placed them not under these words but under "eloquent," 'difficulties,' 'importance,' and 'reflections.' Mr. Hubbard's examples unconsciously show the change in the times; he instances "Bible, Biography, Capital and labor, Christ, Civil-service reform, History, Novels, Poetry, Science, Socialism, Travels, Tariff."

The title-page of the most recent issue in the series of "Simplified Grammars" has a typically cosmopolitan look; it reads thus: 'A Compendious Sanskrit Grammar, with a brief sketch of Scenic Prākṛit. By Hjalmar Edgren, Ph.D., Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Nebraska, U. S. A., formerly Lecturer on Sanskrit in the University of Lund, Sweden. London: Trübner & Co.' That is, the exposition of a language of ancient India by a Swedish professor in Nebraska is published by a famous German firm in London. The little book is designed for the use of beginners before they proceed to the full and elaborate grammar of Whitney, whose authority and system Edgren—himself a pupil of Whitney—has naturally followed.

We have received a copy of the catalogue, in two quarto volumes, of the library of Mr. George Gordon King, of Newport. This work, privately printed "regardless of expense," but with commendable good taste and accuracy of impression, is in some sort designed as a monument of the founder of the library, the uncle and namesake of the present owner. The elder Mr. King was, if we may judge from the list of his acquisitions, hardly to be called a collector. It is not easy to discover leading lines in what is essentially a "gentleman's library." Books of travel were perhaps most sought after for their own sake, yet with little system. The library, too, is chiefly English. Apart from the classics, books in foreign languages are generally curiosities of early



printing. Mr. King was, however, very fond of prints, of which he had amassed a great number in books and in portfolios, and to these last the whole of volume ii is devoted. The cataloguer, Mr. Joseph Allan Nolan, has imitated the example of our best public-library catalogues in analyzing the contents of comprehensive works; though he outstrips them when he performs this service for Serjeant Ballantine's 'Some Experiences of a Barrister's Life' not less than for Emerson's 'Miscellanies,' or Burke's Works.

The ordinary book catalogue abridges the titles of books freely. It is thought to be extravagant when it copies a title in full, and sometimes, as a rare luxury, is allowed to indicate the end of lines in the title-page which it is copying by interrupting its own lines with a vertical dash. The Florentine ex-banker, M. Horace de Landau, however, in the catalogue of his private library, regards this luxury as a meanness, only condescends to use it for a few modern books, and for the bulk of his collection indicates each line of a title-page by a separate line of his catalogue, so that in some cases a single title occupies a whole page. He is a pupil and imitator of the Rothschilds, and can afford the cry, "Hang the expense." Unfortunately, he has printed only one hundred copies of his catalogue, and we fear few will reach this country.

In 1869 Dr. James Rush left his estate, appraised at over a million, for erecting a fire-proof library building in Philadelphia. The will contained various foolish provisions, in consequence of which the clumsy building cost much more than it ought to have done for its storage capacity, and very little money was left for running the library and for the purchase of books. But the most fatal provision placed the library in an out-of-the-way quarter of the city. The result is shown in the last report of the Philadelphia Library Company, to which the building and the relics of the bequest have come. Last year an average of twenty-one persons a week-day visited the "Ridgway Branch," as it is called, and 6,014 volumes were used. The \$1,000,000, if well invested, would be producing at least \$40,000; instead of that, it circulated 6,014 volumes, or, in other words, the use of each volume cost \$6.50. Girard, Rush, and Stewart have not, perhaps, made the most objectionable will ever received to probate in this country; but in their college, library, and cathedral they have left the most conspicuous monuments of un-wisdom. Yet two of them were shrewd men of business, "practical men."

Our readers should not fail to study one of the best results of Mr. Galton's "composite photography," as shown in *Science* for May 8. Professor Pumpelly describes the mode of taking and the component parts of four typical portraits engraved by "process," and representing the identical elements in the physiognomy of twelve mathematicians, sixteen naturalists, thirty-one members of the National Academy of Sciences, and twenty-six field-geologists.

Dr. Benjamin Ward Richardson's quarterly *Asclepiad* (Philadelphia: P. Blakiston, Son & Co.) seldom fails to contain agreeable reading for laymen as well as for the medical practitioner. In the number for April will be found a very interesting account of Vesalius and the birth of anatomy, together with a portrait of the great Belgian, after John Stephan de Calcar, who was most probably the designer and perhaps the engraver of the plates to 'De Humani Corporis Fabrica' (1543). These receive superlative praise from Dr. Richardson, who copies a large number of them (the copying, he says, has been going on for three centuries), and has put them to the test in his lectures by throwing them upon the screen enlarged to their natural size.

Mr. Fletcher, in a lecture at the Parkes Museum, March 26, claimed to have solved the problem of

smokeless house and factory by the use of gas. For two years he has provided in his house for fires, washing, cooking, and bathing with gas at about the same cost as with coal, and with a great saving in servants, dirt, and inconvenience. In his factory, employing 130 hands, he has attained the same end by the use of coke, getting nearly as much work from a pound of coke as from a pound of coal, which costs more and smokes. Great as is, however, the corruption of the atmosphere, which is so acid as to give a plain reaction with litmus-paper, no manufacturer and hardly any householder will take measures to consume his smoke, except so far as the chimney-inspectors compel him. If, however, it can be shown to be distinctly cheaper, England's skies will be soon cleared, and Ruskin will be happy.

The Paris letter in our last number, in which the fall of Ferry was traced to the same cause that produced the fall of Gambetta—the dislike of the place mongering politicians toward a minister who had tried, by establishing the *scrutin de liste*, to free the Ministry from their importunity—could not have surprised any one who had read Gaston Bergeret's 'Dan le Monde Officiel.' In that clever collection of stories, and particularly in the one entitled "Trois Mois de Pouvoir," the extent to which the minister is under the control of the deputy and the deputy is subject to his constituent is very evident, though to show it is not the main object of the narrative. But if statesmen of undoubted ability can be displaced by such causes, the conservative may ask: How is a republic better than the government in which wars were made by the Queen's waiting-woman, and peace by placating the favorite's pug-dog?

Two recent volumes of French short stories help to show that in this department of fiction the French are ahead of the English, and not far behind the Americans. These are the 'Contes du Jour et de la Nuit,' by M. Guy de Maupassant, and the 'Contes de Figaro.' In this latter are collected nine short stories originally contributed to the *Figaro* by nine different authors; "Les Pommes Cuites," a tale of theatrical life by M. François Coppée, being easily the best. M. de Maupassant has not put his best work into his last volume. Only two or three of the tales are remarkable or interesting. Both books are injured by rough and feeble illustrations.

One of our correspondents who illustrated the inexactitude of translations from a Boston version of Daudet's 'Rois en Exil,' did not add the true meaning to the false rendering. A reader of *Le Français* (Boston) has asked the editor to help him out, for the passages were difficult, and M. Lévy does so in his May number. He confirms our correspondent's general high opinion of the translations in which, nevertheless, the extraordinary aberrations cited occurred.

As usual the first of the French theatrical annuals to arrive and the most beautiful to behold is the 'Almanach des Spectacles' (Paris: Jouaust; New York: F. W. Christern), now in its eleventh year, and for the first time without an etching. The dramatic data are, as always, given accurately and concisely. We see, for example, that thirteen plays of Molière have furnished forth in all ninety-five performances by the Comédie-Française, and that the operas—exclusive of the novelties of the year—most frequently performed at the Opéra were "Faust," twenty-four times, and "Favorita," twenty-three times. The brief dramatic biography is useful.

The French Geographical Society gave a grand reception on April 7 to M. Victor Giraud, who has just returned from a two years' exploration of the lower African Lake region. He left Zanzibar in December, 1882, with a force of 130 porters, carrying with him a steel canoe. After great hardships and considerable opposition

from the natives, he was able to launch his boat on Lake Bangweolo in the following July. A chief, in giving him permission to pass through his country, added that he would surely die, like Livingstone, whose wanderings ceased, it will be remembered, on the southern shore of this lake. By means of his canoe M. Giraud was able to determine the true outlet of the River Luapula, the upper Congo, and to follow its course for three days in a southwesterly direction until further progress was checked by some rapids and a hostile army of natives. After a three days' combat he was taken prisoner. He soon made his escape, however, though with the loss of his canoe, and, after skirting the eastern shore of Lake Moero, reached a missionary station on Lake Tanganyika. His efforts to get to Stanley Pool, on the Congo, were defeated by the desertion of his men, and he was obliged to return, reaching the coast at the mouth of the Zambesi in November last. His account of this adventurous journey is given, with a map, in the last *Compte rendu* of the Société de Géographie.

Dr. Koner's customary classified list of geographical publications for November 1, 1883-84, is printed in No. 114 of the Berlin Society's Journal. In the Proceedings of the same society (vol. xiii, No. 3) a map of the Aaru Archipelago accompanies Herr Riedel's paper on this region and its inhabitants.

Except an article on coast defences, there is little that pertains to the burning questions of the day in Parts 146-150 of 'Brockhaus's Conversations-Lexicon' (New York: L. W. Schmidt). We must mention, however, a useful chart showing the colonial possessions of European nations, the world over. To Leipzig is given the most considerable article, which is accompanied by a fine map of the city and its environs. Welcome, too, is a map of Chili, Patagonia, and the Argentine Republic; and very pretty is the colored plate containing specimens of ceramics.

Bismarck's seventieth birthday furnished an occasion for fresh portraiture and other personal illustration to the German periodicals. *Schorer's Familienblatt* (vol. vi, No. 13) accompanies a number of sketches of the great Chancellor with a pen design, "Bismarck reading the proclamation of Emperor at Versailles," by the painter, Anton von Werner, and sundry less important scenes from his career, not omitting one symbolical presentation of him as a nightmare astride of Napoleon III., and another as opening the mouse-trap of Metz, and finally his desperate autograph. *Vom Fels zum Meer* (F. W. Christern) for May, on the other hand, serves up the hero's career in "five life stations," illustrated at every point of his environment in Varzin, and crowned with a superb folded wood-engraving of Bismarck (well worth framing), after Leubach's painting. This being in civilian dress, a fine soldier-portrait is added, with separate likenesses also of his wife, his two sons, and his daughter.

—The War papers in the May *Century* are six in number. General Imboden's sketch of the Battle of Manassas, or First Bull Run, is a lively account of incidents in his personal experience as an artillery captain on the Confederate side, and is a worthy companion-piece for Goss's "Recollections of a Private." Gen. Gustavus W. Smith, also from the Confederate standpoint, gives his version of the second day of the battle of Seven Pines or Fair Oaks, in which he commanded the Confederate army after the disabling of General Johnston, and until General Lee assumed control. He seeks to correct the impression given by some historians, that the Confederate movements lacked in vigor and unity of purpose after Johnston fell. General Johnston contributes a series of notes specifically meeting assertions made by Jefferson Davis, in the 'Rise and Fall

of the Confederacy,' relating to the period of Johnston's command of the Army of Northern Virginia, from Manassas to Seven Pines. He also contends that the statement of Beauregard, that in the battle of Manassas the responsible command and direction of the battle was not assumed by Johnston, is an error, and that he was as really the controlling and guiding mind as any commanding officer could be. The paper is avowedly controversial, and is an important contribution to the discussion of the campaign of 1861-62.

—General McClellan's paper has great interest from the fact that it gives us the grounds upon which, after the long debate, he is willing to rest the defence of the military policy pursued by him in 1861, and the strategy of his Peninsular campaign in 1862. We have no room for criticism of this, and can only indicate his points. He attributes to Mr. Stanton, as Secretary of War, a hostile attitude toward his plans, and insincerity in conduct as the means of communication between the President and the General. He intimates that to this influence was due the interference with his plans both before and after the Peninsular campaign began, which he argues was the fatal cause of all the disasters that occurred. The sketch of his purposes, with the reasons for them, is clear and simple, and future discussion must in great measure turn upon it, and upon its accord with the official records and correspondence. Upon the point regarded by most critics as a vital one, viz., the actual strength of the opposing forces in the field at the beginning of the campaign, his silence will be deemed significant by many. General Badeau's sketch of Grant is a warmly eulogistic estimate of his character and achievements. With their abundant illustrations, the articles in this number alone would make a valuable and attractive volume of contributions to War history.

—The construction of the Lick Observatory on the summit of Mount Hamilton, California, has advanced so rapidly during the past two years, under the direction of the Board of Trustees, that the establishment is now practically complete, with the exception of the great telescope. In so far as the Trustees and their work is concerned, the entire institution, great telescope and all, would have been completed at the close of the present year and given over to the management of the Regents of the University of California, had not the opticians been defeated in the prompt fulfilment of their contract by the unfortunate failure of the glass-makers to produce a piece of crown glass of the size and perfection required for the objective of the telescope. It is now reported that the new management of the firm of Feil, of Paris, has already overcome the difficulties incident to the making of the great disc; and if no accident shall happen, it is to be expected that the Clarks of Cambridgeport will have begun their work of figuring it before the end of the coming summer. The length of time which this operation will consume is uncertain, but two years is a reasonable allowance. The dome, meantime, will be built seventy-six feet in exterior diameter, a size certainly large enough to cover the thirty-six-inch telescope. The excavations for this structure in the solid rock of the mountain are already under way, and the director of works expects to complete its main walls during the coming summer, while the season of 1886 will suffice for the addition of the superstructure, or dome proper. Simultaneously with the optician's work upon the glass discs the equally important problem of the most suitable mounting for the telescope will be attacked, and all the intricate mechanism required for its convenient use will be constructed and put in place underneath the dome, so as to receive the great

glass and make its use possible as soon as the optician's work is complete. It may confidently be expected that this important event in the history of astronomy, marking the completion of the first mountain observatory, will not be delayed beyond the autumn of 1887.

—In the May number of *Nord und Süd* Carl Vogt has an article on the German universities. He has little to say about the students, but makes one important point, which is new to us, viz.: that their great increase since 1866 is due to the universal introduction of the every-man-must-be-a-soldier system. Formerly, middle-class families devoted their savings to buying substitutes, and the youths whose debt to their country was thus compounded began their careers as tradesmen, or what not, at an early age. Now, every one must "serve," but those who can pass an examination equivalent to that required for admission to the universities, are let off with a single year. The result is, not only that nearly all those who formerly would have had substitutes protract their school time by several years, but the majority of those who thus reach the threshold of the university—impelled partly by fixed habits and partly by social ambition—succeed in inducing their parents to let them pass it. But most of Professor Vogt's remarks are addressed to the professors, who, it is needless to say, come off at his hands rather badly. Their organization is bad alike for themselves, for the students, and for the towns in which they live. To begin with, the whole arrangement is a survival of the mediæval guild, one feature being that the professor is always hoping for preferment, not from within, but from without. In consequence of this, he never regards any place as his home till he is past his prime; has no common associations or sympathies with the townsfolk among whom he lives; has no companions but his students and fellow-professors—association with whom only strengthens professional or corporate prejudices. The second great defect of the system is, that under it a professor's capacity as a teacher is almost never considered. Outside his own university he is known only by his writings, so that a man of extraordinary aptitude for imparting knowledge may remain in obscurity, while one physically and morally entirely incompetent to teach is advanced, because the one publishes a book every year or two and the other does not. The third defect grows out of that feature of the system which makes an able professor depend upon the fees paid by students more than upon his salary. This under-payment has the advantage that it stimulates to greater exertion those who might be content with routine work; but the professor who has once enjoyed a considerable extra income is, of course, unwilling to part with it, so that even when permitted to retire on a full salary he declines the honor with thanks, since, in the majority of cases, the fame of past achievements is certain to secure him "a paying public." The highest places in the universities are consequently filled with these worn-out celebrities, who keep down rising talent by the mere fact of their existence.

—A clever article in the *Revue de Belgique* for April 15 purports to be a translation from the great work of the renowned historian "Dimitri Panslavitch," written in 1885. It seems that after the Afghans had occupied Panjdeh, and the Russians, to neutralize this move, had seized other passes leading to Herat, the British took alarm and made the most extensive preparations for war. But as the Ministry wished for peace, they made an offer to negotiate "on the basis of the status quo," which the Russians eagerly accepted. Negotiations dragged on through the winter of 1885-86, during which time, knowing that operations in Asia would not be possible

before spring, the British made a final campaign in Egypt, which resulted in the capture of Khartum. But while their attention was engrossed by Egypt and by reforms at home, the Russians had assembled on the frontier an army of 90,000 men, and had built railways, so that while Herat was two months from London, it was only a fortnight from St. Petersburg. At this point the Russians, in consequence of an "accidental" skirmish with the Afghans, seized the last defile before Herat, a proceeding which caused passionate excitement in England, and with it the fall of Gladstone. The most vigorous measures were taken by his successor, but by the time Lord Wolseley had passed Gibraltar the Russian cavalry had entered Herat. Of the subsequent military operations, suffice it to say that General Slowork, though consistently supported by the Amir and, at first, by the natives, was eventually defeated through the treachery of the Amir's chief minister and general, who, in the midst of a battle, joined the Russians. The retreat of the British, pursued by the combined Russian and Afghan forces, resulted in a repetition of the rising of 1857; so that in a short time there was not a Briton beyond the range of the guns of the various fleets. The Ministry now resolved on a heroic remedy—to reconquer India in Europe. Enormous reinforcements were already half way to India, but they were stopped, and Europe was electrified by the news of the British occupation of southern Russia. To arrest their progress, Poland had to be stripped of its garrisons, and at once rose, while the Russian fleet was annihilated, and all the troops which could be gathered were defeated, successively, at Kiev and Smolensk. The only hope of the Russians was now in the intervention of Germany; but when they made proposals to this effect, Bismarck told them that Great Britain had got ahead of them by offering the Baltic provinces. Bismarck added that he had indignantly refused the offer, but that if it should become known in Germany—which, in view of the habitual indiscretion of English diplomacy, was very likely to happen—the popular feeling would not allow him to neglect the opportunity to recover a long-lost branch of the German family. In view of this, he suggested that the popular demand should be anticipated by a temporary occupation. Though Bismarck's intentions were obvious, Russia could not refuse these terms—Germany, in its turn, engaging to offer its mediation. If this were refused by Great Britain, Germany was to send an army to the aid of Russia, as a guarantee for whose expenses it was to retain the Baltic provinces. Great Britain, flushed with victory, did refuse Bismarck's mediation, of course greatly to the grief and surprise of that simple-minded statesman. The British force occupying the Baltic provinces was instantly overwhelmed, and in a short time Ireland was occupied by a Bavarian army. The British fleets being elsewhere engaged, a descent upon the English coast was easily made, and London occupied without difficulty. The Government retired to Edinburgh, whence peace was made, the treaty being signed at Windsor on October 7, 1887, and one condition being that England was to be occupied by the allies until an enormous indemnity had been paid.

—The history of Israel as unfolded in the Hebrew Scriptures, owing to the unique character both of the events and the narratives, admirably lends itself to the pen of the popular writer. The literature of every Christian country abounds in compends of this kind. The Jewish history of the earlier post-Biblical periods, too—the almost exclusive sources of which are the books of Maccabees and the annals of Josephus—is so full of heroic, thrilling, and tragic events that it requires little skill to make a summary of it popu-



larly attractive, or even fascinating. But with the destruction of Jewish independence by the Romans, and the suppression of the last attempts to recover it, the history of the people changes suddenly and completely. It becomes dark, painful, almost forbidding—a bewildering picture of harrowing oppression, attempts at extermination, and passive invincibility. To depict this life of the Jewish people in the dispersion in a connected sketch of moderate dimensions, not a mere maze of names—Talmudical, rabbinical, Gentile—penetrable only to the student, nor a work devoid of unity, chronological order, and symmetry, is a task demanding great literary ability. It has, however, been admirably executed by a young French writer, M. Théodore Reinach, in his 'Histoire des Israélites depuis l'époque de leur dispersion jusqu'à nos jours' (Paris, 1885). With uncommon tact and true historical insight, he has selected out of the mass of matter worked up by Basnage, Jost, Graetz, and some minor writers, all that is most characteristic and salient in the social, religious, and literary life of the Jews, and—braving the reproach of incompleteness—has made the chosen portions intelligible, harmonious, and, despite the intrinsic gloominess of the whole, attractive. His main guide is, of course, Graetz, but he borrows freely from Derenbourg and other French writers. He displays less familiarity with Hebrew literature than with the general history of the eighteen centuries through which he leads his reader, but the whole tenor of the book evinces Israelitish sentiments, which give warmth and color to its pages without noticeably impairing their objective truthfulness.

—The controversy about the authorship of the 'De Imitatione Christi' still rages. Last August a monument was raised at Verceil in honor of Jean Gersen, with great rejoicings. On the other hand, Father Denifle, a learned Dominican employed in the Archives of the Vatican, has, according to the Abbé Delvigne, "completely demolished the legend of Gersen, the mythical abbot of Saint-Étienne at Verceil." Father Santini, general of the regular canons of the Lateran, has published a volume of some 500 pages in favor of the claim of Thomas à Kempis; and one of the canons, Father Lolli, has written two pamphlets to the same effect. Finally, the Abbé Delvigne has protested, in a little pamphlet published at Brussels, against the monument at Verceil. It is now a contest of paper against stone. Future generations can see whether the pen is mightier than the chisel. In England the doubt as to the authorship of another famous piece of practical theology, 'The Whole Duty of Man,' is not indeed removed, but diminished. The question has come so far toward an answer as this, that a great library, the Bodleian, by admitting the book to its catalogue under a definite name, shows that Bodley's librarian at least is convinced by the arguments of Mr. C. E. Doble, who advocated the claims of Doctor Richard Allestree.

—Scotchmen and Chinamen are not commonly associated in our thoughts, yet they have one thing in common—the pentatonic scale in their music, in which are omitted the fourth and seventh notes of the diatonic scale on which the music we listen to every day is based. In all other respects, however, Scotch music appears to us normal and pleasing, while Chinese music is described by Occidental tourists as noisy, monotonous, discordant, and chaotic. In a brochure published at Shanghai (London: P. S. King & Son), Mr. J. A. Van Aalst, of the Chinese Imperial Customs Service, attempts to explain the mysteries of the divine art in the Celestial Kingdom. The explanations given are concise and intelligible, and there are numerous illustrations

of musical groups and curious instruments, of dancers and temples, and examples of songs both in Chinese and European notation. The chief reasons, we are told, why Chinese music makes a disagreeable impression on foreigners are that their intervals are not tempered; the intonation is often faulty; the melodies are neither definitely major nor minor, and are always in unison and unchangeable in key, loudness, and movement, which produces a sense of monotony. But the Chinese like this music, as is proved by "the numerous bands parading the streets and offering their services; by the strict attention with which they listen to the ballad singers—now exhibiting emotion at an affecting picture of suffering, now breaking into hearty laughter when the subject is of an amusing kind; and finally by the large variety of instruments, which, although often played without taste and feeling, are nevertheless remarkable for their beautiful simplicity of form, and their extreme cheapness." Harmony, as we understand it, is unknown to them. In singing, "the sounds seem to proceed from the nose; the tongue, the teeth, and the lips have very little to do, except for the enunciation of some labial words." The singing is always in unison, and generally accompanied on the guitar. A delightful effect must be produced in the Buddhistic service, where we are told that, although all the chanters utter the same words and follow the same rhythm, still each sings in the key most convenient to his own voice. The Chinese are not unacquainted with our method of dividing an octave into twelve semitones, and transposing, yet this method is rarely applied in their melodies. In aesthetics, it seems, the Chinese hold to the old notion, combated by Hanslick, that music is the expression of the feelings.

#### SELECT ORATIONS.

*Representative American Orations*, to illustrate American Political History. Edited, with Introductions, by Alexander Johnston, Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Economy in the College of New Jersey. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

*Representative British Orations*, with Introductions and Explanatory Notes. By Charles Kendall Adams, Professor of History in the University of Michigan. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

THESE companion sets of volumes are designed to bring together, within easy reach, a number of the most important political speeches, English and American, for use in historical study. The idea was a decidedly happy one. It would be difficult to overrate the value of a good political speech as a source of history for later generations. The more fully it answers its immediate purpose of gaining the support of the people, the more valuable it becomes for later study, as evidence of the public thought and prevailing sentiment at the date of its delivery. Unfortunately, good reporting is a very recent accomplishment. It was only when political oratory was far gone in decline that it became possible to preserve more than a bald outline of a speech. What passes as a "full report" was usually, as is well known, the product of some fertile brain in Grub Street.

The speeches before us are mainly confined to the present century; and they have been selected from the great mass rather with a view to their historical value than for oratorical excellence. The American set comprises fifty-five speeches, more or less complete. They are grouped under seven different heads: Colonialism, Constitutional Government, the Rise of Democracy, the Rise of Nationality, the Anti-Slavery Struggle, Secession and Reconstruction, and Free Trade and Protection. These divisions, except the last, correspond to periods in the history of the na-

tion. The speeches of each group are prefaced by a sketch of the period to which they belong, and a statement of the questions to which they relate. These sketches are admirably clear and effective. The selections also seem to have been made with skill and good judgment. Of course it was not possible to give more than a small part of what was said on each side of every question. We think Professor Johnston may be congratulated on having selected from the whole mass those speeches and parts of speeches that were most characteristic and influential. The anti-slavery struggle and the questions that grew out of it having occupied so large a place in the national life, it was natural that they should furnish the most numerous and striking selections. Accordingly, the whole of the second volume and almost the whole of the third are occupied with speeches relating to slavery and the troubles between North and South to which slavery gave rise. Calhoun, Webster, Phillips, Sumner, Clay, Douglas, Lincoln, Seward, Toombs, Vallandigham, Breckinridge, Davis, Stephens, Schurz, Sherman, Beecher, Garfield, and a number of others are represented by at least one speech, some of them by two or three. It may safely be maintained that the student who peruses these speeches with care, will obtain a clearer and more adequate conception of the "irrepressible conflict" than any set narrative can possibly convey. For the earlier periods the speeches selected are: under Colonialism, two by Patrick Henry, one by Hamilton, and Washington's inaugural address; under Constitutional Government, Ames on the Jay treaty, and John Nicholas on the Sedition Law; under the Rise of Democracy, Jefferson's inaugural address, Nott on the death of Hamilton, Randolph on the Militia Bill (1811), Josiah Quincy on the admission of Louisiana, and Henry Clay on the War of 1812; under the Rise of Nationality, Calhoun, Hayne, and Webster on nullification and the questions connected with it, On Free Trade and Protection, a speech by Henry Clay in 1832 and one by Frank H. Hurd in 1881 are the only selections given.

In the 'British Orations' there is less of an attempt to cover the whole ground by topics and periods. The selections are longer, and consequently fewer in number—only sixteen in all. At the beginning are placed a speech by Sir John Eliot, against the Duke of Buckingham, and one by Pym, on the misgovernment of Charles I. Then there is a long gap to the days of the Stamp Act. Four speeches are given relating to the troubles with the Colonies, two by Chatham, one by Mansfield, and one by Burke. These occupy the first volume. In the second volume are given Pitt's defence of his refusal to negotiate with Napoleon, and Fox's reply; Sir James Mackintosh's defence of Peltier, and Erskine's address in prosecuting the publisher of Paine's 'Age of Reason.' The third volume contains Canning's defence of his aid to Portugal, Macaulay on the Reform Bill, Cobden on the Corn Laws, Bright on England's foreign policy, Beaconsfield on the Conservative party, and one of Gladstone's Midlothian speeches. A short biographical sketch is prefixed to each speech, and illustrative notes are appended to each volume.

The selections seem to be, on the whole, less happy and effective than in the American set. The difficulty may no doubt be due to the nature of the materials. England's history is more complicated, her interests more multifarious, than ours. The rule adopted by Professor Adams, of giving speeches entire, made it impossible to offer a wide range of selections. The result is, that many questions which have agitated England deeply, and many men whose speeches and personality have had a powerful influence on English history, are not represented at all. We need only mention Wilberforce, Lord Greyville,

Romilly, Grattan, Castlereagh, Brougham, Wellington, Peel, O'Connell, Earl Grey, Stanley, Russell, and Palmerston, in order to suggest the extent and importance of the omissions. We cannot but believe that the collection would have gained in interest and value if the editor had cut out the less important parts of the longest speeches, and had omitted entirely Mackintosh's hopeless defence of Peltier and Erskine's uncharacteristic prosecution of Williams, and had used the space so gained to insert some speeches or parts of speeches on the slave trade, the abolition of slavery, the Catholic disabilities, the Chartist agitation, the disestablishment of the Irish Church, the Irish land question, the Factory Acts, or the reform of the criminal laws, or some other of the characteristic reforms of the last fifty years.

The introductions and illustrative notes are copious and instructive. The editor turns his wide acquaintance with historical literature to good account for his readers. It is a pity that he should have allowed a considerable number of misprints and some erroneous statements to mar somewhat the quality of his work. Sir John Eliot is represented as suffering his long imprisonment on account of the speech against Buckingham in 1628; whereas the immediate cause was his action in the session of 1629, and the same penalty was inflicted on eight others, two of whom remained in prison till 1640. It is stated (i, 29) that the revival of monopolies by Charles I. was "in direct and open violation of the Petition of Right"; also (i, 306), that the Petition of Right forbade interference with the erection of buildings in London. The Petition of Right says nothing about monopolies and nothing about the erection of buildings. The Dean of Edinburgh is stated (i, p. 31) to have been felled to the ground by a stool flung by one of the congregation in the "Service Book" troubles of 1637; but the story of Jenny Geddes and her stool is now regarded as mythical. At p. 269, vol. ii, we are told that "when, in 1806, Grenville and Fox came into power, Erskine received the highest award to which an English attorney can aspire. But he had not long to enjoy his new honors as Lord Chancellor, for Pitt soon came once more into power." This passage contains two errors. Pitt was dead even before Erskine became Lord Chancellor; secondly, no English attorney ever held the office of Lord Chancellor, or dreamed of aspiring to it. Professor Adams has overlooked the important distinction between the attorney and the barrister in England. At p. 10, vol. iii, it is stated that the Test Act excluded the Catholics from seats in Parliament and from the privilege of voting at elections. The Test Act did not touch on either of these matters. At p. 282, vol. iii, it is stated that Mr. Gladstone secured the passage in 1871 of the "Abolition of Purchase in the Army Act"; but no such act was ever passed—the purchase system was abolished by a royal warrant.

These and some other slips can easily be remedied in a new edition. We shall be glad if it shall be found possible at the same time to extend somewhat the range and variety of the selections. The work, even as it stands, will be found very helpful and inspiring for classes in English history. But the vein is a rich one, and will repay a second and more comprehensive working.

#### RECENT NOVELS.

*The What-To-Do Club.* By Helen Campbell. Boston: Roberts Bros.

*The Open Door. The Portrait.* Two Stories of the Seen and the Unseen. By the author of 'A Little Pilgrim.' Boston: Roberts Bros.

*The Wane of an Ideal.* By La Marchesa Colombi. From the Italian, by Clara Bell. William S. Gottsberger.

*Serapis.* Von Georg Ebers. Stuttgart and Leipzig: Deutsche Verlags-Anstalt.

*The Same.* Translated by Clara Bell. William S. Gottsberger.

*Miss Bretherton.* By Mrs. Humphry Ward. Macmillan & Co.

*Mark Rutherford's Deliverance:* being the Second Part of his Autobiography. Edited by his friend, Reuben Shapcott. London: Trübner & Co.

'THE WHAT-TO-DO CLUB' is a work of collaboration by Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Poole, the former telling a pleasant, if not very original, story of New England life, the latter writing the letters in which the doings of the "Busy-Bodies," a New Jersey club, are related for the instruction of the "What-To-Do's." Both clubs are in search of employment that shall be at once interesting and profitable. The assurance of the writers that each experiment is an actual one, truthfully described, makes the book a valuable storehouse of information. The tone of it is admirable, sweet, and healthful, making gentle household things and home affections of the first importance, and then trying to show what occupations are not incompatible with them, either in fact or in spirit. Indeed, the most novel suggestion of the whole is found in the work of the girl who takes up the cabinet-making which failing health compels her father to leave. Mrs. Campbell might have laid more stress than she has done on the advantage gained by making the most of the opportunity nearest at hand. Women who are suddenly compelled to earn their own living are too apt to try to save their pride by going among strangers. All that is little as compared with the help, even if it be only the moral support, of a few tried friends, to say nothing of the advantage of not having to establish a character. There is no need of reminding us of unhonored prophets. The question here is how, in a serious emergency, to make the most of what has already been gained from life. Not a little of that is invested in one's surroundings.

The two short stories 'The Open Door' and 'The Portrait,' which Roberts Brothers have put into a dainty volume, are very like 'Old Lady Mary.' They have the same quiet tone, the same completeness of setting; but Mrs. Oliphant has somehow contrived that they take a stronger hold of the imagination, and that they come closer to our hearts. Mother love—despair for the wifely loss of it, the yearning for it as a blessing never known—makes the turning-point of each story, though in so different a way that the contrast cannot have been in the author's intention. There is an exquisite finish about the work, while some of it is very strong. Mrs. Oliphant has nowhere written anything more dramatic than the scene of the prayer of the old Scotch minister. Any reader who cares to keep himself sensitive to the unseen will wish for no explanation of the first story, while frequent experience will verify the last, so far as concerns the effect of a sudden coincidence upon excited nerves and an awakened conscience.

We have not examined the original of 'The Wane of an Ideal,' but the translation is either roughly done, with not a little cutting out from the sentences, or the author herself has not been at the pains to give fine shading to her picture. Any addition, however, to the scant knowledge of modern Italian life is welcome, even were it less interesting than this vigorous sketch. Agreeable it cannot be called. The history of the rise of a very poor village boy to a brilliant position at the bar shows many phases of society and many types of character, in rather a conventional manner. The hero grows selfish, and the heroine, once far above him, grows homely with home-keeping. His ideal fades completely as he

sinks to lower moral levels, so that the lady's fidelity and the devotion of an old servant present the only ennobling sentiments in the whole book.

Ebers is at a disadvantage before an English public with his present subject, for it must come after 'Hypatia' to every one old enough to have read that book. To less thoughtful minds he will be supposed to present a clearer picture than Kingsley, but this is only an apparent superiority, not a real one. Ebers almost never goes below the surface. He deals with things, with a few well-defined incidents. Kingsley deals with souls and with their innermost struggles. Moreover, a single generation has been enough to render intricate and perplexing, thought and doctrine which seemed simple enough when concentrated in the one alternative—heathen or Christian. Ebers has chosen for illustration perhaps the most portentous event in the history of the official establishment of Christianity, the destruction of the splendid temple of Serapis at Alexandria by the order of the Emperor Theodosius. His story is confined within the limits of a few days before and after this event. He has introduced, with fine dramatic force and contrast, the different elements of that extraordinary life, not, as we have already said, with the intimacy, the passionate enthusiasm of Kingsley, but still with a scholar's learning so infused and illumined with human sympathy that his characters seem real.

It is not needful to say that Ebers is an acknowledged master in his own tongue and among his own people, but it is needful to say with emphasis that no writer ever had greater injustice done him than he has suffered in the present translation. His own style is so clear, so free and flowing, as to give him marked pre-eminence among his countrymen. His short, direct sentence is as crisp and pointed as French in comparison with the long, tortuous labyrinth through which Spielhagen so deftly winds his thought. His descriptions are at once accurate and poetic. He is sparing of adjective or epithet, and has that happy faculty of so choosing and grouping his nouns and verbs that they carry full force without need of help, and the picture is given by the effect of the whole paragraph, not by the filling up of modifying words. In conversation the rapid give and take is heightened by his preference for short words.

The faults of the translation are so general and so uniform throughout the book as to give the impression of a manner of its own which the reader, unwarned, might well mistake for the author's style. The original is at once inflated and weakened, exaggerated and degraded by meaningless expansion. The simple *Er liebt uns!* becomes "He is fondly attached to us." *Du bist ein braves Ding! Treu zu den Seinen halten, das lieben die Götter,* is rendered: "You are a good, brave girl. Fidelity to your friends is pleasing in the sight of the gods." Adjectives are put in or left out almost at discretion, and there seems not the smallest attempt at exactness. Opening the book, we find, without turning a leaf: *in die Hände schlug*, "clasping his hands in horror"; *kurz und streng*, "severely"; *vornehmer Würde*, "supreme dignity"; *widriges Thier*, "horrible animal." Two more taken at random are: *feurig*, "with fervid enthusiasm"; *das Mutterherz* (mourning for an only son), "the poor soul." In the descriptions there are gross mistakes in matters so obvious as architectural terms of the most general kind. It will hardly be believed that, in what is above all else a story of Christian faith, the passages from the Bible are not only not given as from our version, but are not faithful to the German. How could any one make *seines Vaters Hause*, "his Father's kingdom"? Fortunately such a rendering as "The Lord has no



joy in the strength of a horse, neither taketh he pleasure in any man's legs," is only laughable; but there are places where one shrinks as at the sight of careless feet on holy ground. We turn with pleasure for a last word concerning the original, which the publishers have made unusually attractive in form and type. It is to be strongly recommended not exactly to beginners in German, but to those seeking something for rapid sight reading. Except for a few pages of philosophy, it reads itself.

Mrs. Ward's book was sure of a kind of early popularity based on the personal element, so to speak, which the public would read into it, whether the author intended it or no. Miss Bretherton is said to be Miss So-and-so. The American man of letters is such an one; the hero, another veritable personage. The world of fashion will thus be content; but this first wave of success will meanwhile have carried the book within reach of eyes that will see the inadequacy of this surface comment, and will appreciate its depth and its fineness. Though the heroine is an actress, it is not in the least a story of the stage. The *motif* underlying the plot and action is the insufficiency of natural gifts, and the mistake of the world's easy acceptance of them. True of all the arts, it is most true, most evident, in that of the stage; above all, if the actor be a woman. In a few incidents so briefly told as sometimes to be broken, we have a concrete presentation of the problem, How shall an exceptional natural endowment of physical perfection, with no inheritance of cultivation from the past, no accumulation of personal thought and experience, reach the heights of artistic excellence? Will Undine find a soul?

The heroine is first presented to us in the flush of a great London triumph. All the world is at her feet, and nightly crowds the theatre where she is like some beautiful, high-spirited child playing a game she only half understands. Little the audiences care for the play in which she appears, except as the opportunity for a display of her grace and loveliness. She is herself a romance, and should always be acting a kind of glorified and poetical pantomime. Action and movement are her natural forms of expression, while in all the arts of speech she is a mere crude novice. Flattered by a public that cares only for her beauty and her personal prestige, popularity can only stereotype her faults; and if she be only what she seems, the attempt at training as imposed from outside would be fatal. Then comes the facile argument, Why ask for more? What does art or cultivation or training matter so long as Nature will only condescend once in a hundred years to produce for us a creature so perfect, so finely fashioned to all beautiful uses? Beauty and charm and sex have in all ages been too much for the clever people who try to reckon without them. But then comes the other side, which will assert itself to those whom wider experience has made critical. Are the men and women who have labored and struggled and died in the effort to reach a higher and higher perfection in one single art, to be outdone, eclipsed in one moment, by something which is a mere freak of nature, something which, like the lilies of the field, has neither toiled nor spun? Beauty has power enough; let us defend against her that store of human sympathy which is the proper reward of labor and intelligence, of all that is complex and tenacious in the workings of the human spirit.

There is no room in this short sketch, for which we have borrowed somewhat Mrs. Ward's own words, to trace the steps of Miss Bretherton's development. Sometimes they are given rather by hints or in flashes than in full detail, but the story affords manifold suggestions as to training in art, not for the stage only, but in any perfected skill.

The love of Eustace Kendal for Isabel makes no part of her artist life, though he is most vitally connected with it. To her, till the very last, he is only a judge, an authority, an embodied standard. In the relation between them Mrs. Ward has attempted, and, it seems to us, worked out with rare and delicate insight, a situation of great difficulty. Blankly put, it is, How can a man, with only himself and a moderate fortune to offer, address a woman on the very heights of fame? Over and over again novelists have evaded the question by bringing the man to help or to rescue at the moment of failure. In that guise comes Kendal's first vision of his hitherto unsuspected love—a dying fame, a forsaken and discredited beauty, finding in his affection a fresh glory and an all-sufficient consolation. Her triumph leaves him no hope. He watches her on the night of her reappearance in London, conscious that the moment is so vital, so desperate, that life on the other side will bear the mark of it forever. When it is over, he knows that in the halo of her great success she stands afar off from him, divided by an impassable gulf from the love which cries to her, unheard and hopeless, across the darkness. Yet by chances of life so simple, so inevitable, as to seem only daily human experience, these two, so wide apart, are brought to the common ground where neither wealth nor fame can separate, where only the heart's need and the heart's love can ask and give.

It is many a long day since we have had so beautiful a book. The descriptions of society are rather glimpses than formal pictures, given with the ease and grace that come only from being thoroughly at home. The French side of the book, with its high-mindedness, its refined ideals, its distinction, will be nothing short of a revelation to those whose knowledge of French literature and life is drawn only from novels, even though they are of the best.

No reader of the 'Autobiography of Mark Rutherford' (see the *Nation*, Vol. xxxii, No. 831), can have forgotten the last words of the editor: "I can only hope that it may be my good fortune to find the materials which will present him in a somewhat different light to that in which he appears now." So strong is the abiding sense that the life was an actual one that we open the sequel, 'Mark Rutherford's Deliverance,' with the involuntary exclamation—"The hope has been realized!" But we are no better able than before to settle the question whether the book is a purely imaginative creation, or a fearlessly candid and exact self-portraiture. The writer has not lost one bit of his skill, whether it comes from an elaborate training or is a gift of inspiration. The brief story is resumed at the point where Mark finds a slender occupation as correspondent for a country paper. The one fortunate chance of his life throws in his way again the lady to whom he was early engaged, and from his marriage to her come the few happy hours of his life. "If a man wants to know what the potency of love is, he must be a menial; he must be despised. . . . I cannot write poetry, but if I could, no theme would tempt me like that of love to such a person as I was—not love, as I say again, to the hero, but love to the Helot." He had called himself commonplace, truly enough, so far as education, opportunities, circumstances go; but the impulse of honesty, the clear-sightedness, and the fidelity to awakened conscience which nerved him to close against himself the one narrow opening offered him to the world's comforts, are above commonplace. Call it motive, fibre of nature, or grace from above—whatever one may—the same superiority of nature which carried him out of the darkness of his early dissenting surroundings, survived in the hard, joyless round in which the remainder of his life was spent. It manifested itself in the ef-

fort of which not one in a thousand of his class among working people would have been capable, to do good to the suffering souls about him. His own personal problem was no longer how to escape from a false position, from insincerity, but how to keep for his own soul some vision of the invisible, while toiling to utter weariness for bare existence. Mark Rutherford kept it by trying to bring some knowledge of it to his fellow-men. For this reason the later part of the life will appeal to the sympathy of a wider circle of readers than the first. However much the opinions of some of our sects may resemble those of the English Dissenters of forty years ago, their homes and their ways are very remote from us. On the other hand, the poor—not the starving, but the poor who have only the narrowest bit of the day for living their own lives when work is done—these offer the most urgent problem of the moment. Their hearts Mark Rutherford knew, for he was one of them. The history of his efforts to reach and comfort those worse off than himself ought to be closely and humbly studied by all those who are now thinking about help for the working classes.

There is no more place for a set moral in this sequel than in the earlier book. For himself, to the last, he had only to endure. Every faithful life, however, speaks its word. Commonplace to abjectness it may be, but the eye that never loses sight of the truth, the unselfishness that will share the faintest hope, will lead to deliverance at last. The volume also contains some remarkable pages, ostensibly from the pen of Rutherford. The notes on the book of Job form a lucid and eloquent exposition of the whole argument.

"Inexpressibly touching is the last verse but one. It is a revelation of the inmost heart striving to be at peace with death. Not one grain of comfort is sought outside, and it is this which makes it so precious. There is not even a hint of a hope. All is drawn from within, and is solid and real. To this we can come when religion, dreams, metaphysics, all fail. The clouds of the valley shall be sweet even to us. Why should we complain? Why should we be in mortal fear? We do but go the path which the poorest, the weakest, the most timid have all trodden; which the poorest, the weakest, the most timid for millions of years will still tread. Every man draws after us, and innumerable have drawn thither before us. None who have passed have ever rebelled or repented, nor shall we. Job, in building on rest and on community, has struck the adamant which cannot be shaken."

#### RECENT LAW BOOKS.

MR. PHILEMON BLISS is a teacher of jurisprudence in the University of Missouri, and is also known to lawyers as the author of a work on 'Code Pleading.' His present work, 'Of Sovereignty' (Boston: Little, Brown & Co.), is dedicated to the President of the University, and seems to have grown out of a difference of opinion between them as to the "nature of the American Union." The volume is, however, a treatise on sovereignty in general, in which the author combats vigorously the views of Austin as to law, gives his own, and deduces from these some general considerations as to the Federal system of the United States which, we are glad to see, are fatal to the right of secession. When we find that abstract views lead to correct results we are always prone to believe the foundations well laid; but in this case there is a certain vagueness in Mr. Bliss's views of law which renders it difficult to be certain that he "follows" Austin as completely as he evidently feels that he does. He denies, in the first place, that all law is a command and is the expressed will of the sovereign. He says, on the contrary, that law originates in notions of right, and has an "ethical source." He seems to be a believer in the law of reason, or of nature, the law "coming directly from our Maker," which is founded upon "our family, so-

cial, and property instincts, as well as upon our moral sense." "Concrete rules spring from them and form the law proper; and, whether shown in legislation or in judicial holding, their object is to secure justice, to prevent wrong. . . . That rule is declared to be legal which best secures honesty and fidelity, and which protects from fraud." The last part of this would seem to confound law with morality, the first with morality supplemented by a sort of divinely inspired legal instinct. It is curious that the author, who has certainly devoted a great deal of pains to his subject, does not see that what Austin undertook to do was merely to analyze what the metaphysicians call the content of the idea Law. In it he insisted that the notion of command was always to be found, and that behind the command was force. The fact that law is founded on reason, or guided by a perception of justice, or has its origin in custom, does not affect this at all. Nor can there be much doubt that in all consciously made law the idea of command is to be found. Most of what Mr. Bliss says with regard to this, so far as it is accurate, seems to be irrelevant. The book will, however, be found of considerable interest, especially in the South and Southwest, to the student of the Federal system.

Mr. Charles Howard Shinn's 'Mining Camps: A Study in Frontier Government' (Scribners, 1885), is one of the interesting results of the impulse given to the study of political and social phenomena at the Johns Hopkins University. The advanced students and young instructors at that institution are encouraged to publish the results of their investigations; and a good deal of very suggestive material has thus been made accessible. If it is sometimes a little crude, or heralded with a little too lofty a note of the trumpet, yet these are venial faults where the interest is so hearty, and the results so useful, and the promise so excellent. Mr. Shinn modestly and justly calls his book 'A Study in American Frontier Government'; it is exactly that—a "study"; and, so regarded, it is one of the best of the class of books to which we have just referred. The free, instinctive methods which the early Californian miners followed are illustrated by graphic accounts of their proceedings; and they are connected with the mining usages of earlier times by a thread of information which, although slight, is enough to make these later usages significant, and to stimulate the reader's curiosity to know more. We heartily commend this book as having much curious material for students of early institutions, collected and illustrated by a fresh, enthusiastic, and highly intelligent mind. Indeed, for almost any thoughtful reader it will be full of interest.

The subject of 'Communication by Telegraph' (Boston: Little, Brown & Co.), as Mr. Morris Gray says in his preface, "fully justifies, in its importance and in the unsettled condition of its law," the publication of a text-book. The only other treatise, we believe, dealing exclusively with this subject is that of Messrs. Scott and Jarnagin, published in 1868. In the seventeen years which have since elapsed, the courts have rendered numerous decisions settling many points then in dispute, and adding a great volume of cases to those then in existence. That telegraph companies are not common carriers—that is, that they are not insurers against loss, but are only responsible for due care—and that telegraphic messages are not privileged communications, but stand on the same footing in courts of justice as other written documents, Mr. Gray is able to lay down positively. His résumé of the discussion of the latter point is very valuable, and his views agree substantially with those heretofore expressed in these columns. Inasmuch as the administration of justice is supposed to make it

necessary that all private writings shall be producible in court as testimony when relevant (except, of course, in the case of certain privileged relations, like that of husband and wife), a copy of a telegraphic message in the hands of the company stands on the same footing with a copy of a letter retained by the sender himself. If the letter has any bearing on a question at issue in a court of justice, no one ever imagined that, the original not being producible, the copy was privileged. The courts in the United States have almost universally taken this view of telegrams. The inviolability of the mails means the inviolability of private letters while in process of transmission by the Government which undertakes to transport them. A letter once received is no more sacred, where the interests of justice between man and man, or of the criminal law, are concerned, than a book of account. The feeling which has been aroused on this subject has been caused by a dread of the abuse of the power, which, as Mr. Gray points out, may be made the instrument of tyranny as great as that to which general search-warrants once led.

There is only one point that Mr. Gray does not touch upon. The danger of abuse in the case of telegraph companies may be so much greater than in any other case (owing to the enormous mass of information contained in their records, and the consequent temptation to unscrupulous judges, or legislative committees carrying on investigations), that it may prove wiser in the end to make despatches privileged even against judicial writs. The question will become more important still if the Government should assume the functions of the telegraph companies. Mr. Gray's work is fully and conscientiously done, and he has had the assistance in some portions of it of one of the most learned lawyers and lucid writers in Massachusetts, Mr. J. C. Gray.

Mr. Henry F. Buswell's treatise on 'The Law of Insanity' (Little, Brown & Co.) is embraced in thirteen chapters (followed by an appendix containing the English Lunacy Acts), treating of legal definitions of insanity; jurisdictions over insane persons and their estates; inquisitions; guardians; management of estates of insane persons; suits by or against the insane or their guardians; rules applied in deciding the issue of insanity; evidence to prove insanity; capacity of the insane to do valid civil acts, to testify, etc.; testamentary capacity; conveyances by the insane; and their criminal liability. As a collection of cases and rules, the work is well done. In another edition we shall hope to find more definite expressions of the author's own views on the many curious questions which are presented in the course of litigation by the issue of insanity. The presumption of sanity and innocence in criminal cases, and the presumption of sanity in will cases, have led to the production of a variety of conflicting theories by the courts, all of which are fully and fairly stated by the author, as if to pave the way for such further discussion. The modern law of insanity is a most interesting branch of jurisprudence, and has kept pace with the development of the knowledge of mental disease. From the barbarous period when the mind was regarded as what the author calls "an integer," and when even so enlightened a judge as Sir Matthew Hale laid down the rule that the test of criminal capacity was having an understanding such as that of a child of fourteen, we have made an immense stride. The law at the present day recognizes the general principle to be that capacity or responsibility is a question dependent on circumstances, and that persons may be responsible in some directions and not in others; that when the doer of the act is able to reasonably comprehend the nature, relations, effects, and legal consequences of the act, he is not as a matter of law insane, no matter how

strange or eccentric his actions and the operations of his mind in other respects.

Mr. Willis Paine first came prominently before the public in this State some half-dozen years since as receiver of several of the savings banks ruined by the panic of 1873. The period of speculation which preceded that crisis had produced a most curious effect upon the minds of trustees of savings institutions. Although bound by their charters to invest money intrusted to them only in specified classes of securities, they wantonly violated the law, and placed their funds in all sorts of loans insufficiently secured and illegal in their character. Crazed with the speculative fever, many of them almost ceased to act as trustees, and managed their banks much as if they had been stock firms carried on for private profit. The result was the collapse and insolvency of the banks, and the first question which presented itself to the receivers charged with the duty of collecting and returning to the depositors the assets of these ruined institutions was, whether they could not force the trustees to pay damages for their negligence and waste of the property intrusted to them. Acting under the advice of skilful counsel, Mr. Paine and other receivers resorted to the courts, and insisted on their right to hold the trustees for damages. The right was sustained, and heavy verdicts were rendered in some of the lower courts, and we believe the cases were in most instances compromised by the payment of large sums of money to the receivers. Mr. Paine, at least, by these means succeeded in recovering a large amount of misappropriated funds for one of the banks, and was enabled to wind up that institution in a manner which must have been an agreeable surprise to most of the depositors.

It was owing to his services in connection with these cases that he was afterward appointed one of the Commission to revise and compile the laws affecting banks, banking, and trust companies, and subsequently placed in charge of the Banking Department at Albany. His work on 'The Laws of New York relating to Banks, Banking, and Trust Companies' (Albany: Weed, Parsons & Co.) contains not only the banking laws, but a great quantity of decided cases which have arisen under them, and will be found to be of value to lawyers quite as much as to bankers. A novel subject, which the title-page hardly suggests, is also embraced, viz., the Laws relating to Safe Deposit Companies. Very few cases appear to have arisen under these. Indeed, the only one of general interest cited is a decision that a safe of the Mercantile Trust Company, and a tin box containing property and securities on deposit, are not within the protection which the law affords to a debtor's dwelling house against an officer acting under civil process. Why it should have been supposed that they were is rather hard to see, but it may be of interest to failing debtors to know that there is a decision of the Supreme Court which will effectually prevent them from turning all their property into stocks and bonds, putting them in a tin box in a safe-deposit vault, and defying their creditors (U. S. v. Graff, 67 Barb., 304, 310). A point of some interest to deposit companies was also decided in the same case—that should it become necessary to open one of these safes in the presence of the Sheriff, to ascertain what property of the debtor it contains, an order directing the exclusion of the counsel and agents of each party is a proper exercise of the discretion of the court.

Judge Drake's treatise on 'Attachment' (Little, Brown & Co.) is so well known to the profession that it is hardly necessary to do more than call attention to the fact that a new edition of it has appeared. The learned author has been, ever since the appearance of the first edition, thirty years ago, the authority on this important



branch of law. In the sixth edition, although five hundred and fifty new cases have been added, several passages rewritten, and new topics introduced and treated, the total number of pages is only eighteen more than those of the fifth edition—a specimen of condensation as rare in new editions of legal text-books as it is creditable to the author. The title-page of the book, by the way, has never seemed to us to give a fair idea of the contents, as the book includes trustee and garnishee process, as well as ordinary attachment suits.

*Studies, Literary and Historical, on the Odes of Horace.* By A. W. Verrall, M.A., Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. Macmillan & Co.

MR. VERRALL is one of the most enthusiastic and accomplished classical scholars among the younger members of King Henry VIII's glorious college. He has made for us, out of his college lectures, a delightful book. It has brought back days of boyhood, days of college, days at Mr. Verrall's own Trinity, days of teaching, through every one of which Horace's odes rang as the very music to whose tunes "day was pushed on by day, and the new moons hastened to perish." It consists of a series of essays on individual points, some historical and some purely philological: difficulties which can be solved only by studying Horace's odes as a whole—or rather as two wholes, the first consisting of Odes I, II, III, the second of Ode IV—and not as a series of comparatively detached songs. All of these essays are extremely interesting and acute, though of very different degrees of merit. The one on *Lamia* is perhaps too subtle. The vindication of Horace as a friend and respecter of lawful matrimonial love, instead of the impudent and untiring eulogist of immoral connections, is excellent, and well deserves to be studied. The essay on the structure of Horace's Odes (called "Euterpe") is also acute; but we protest against accepting the curious mosaic from Bergk's "Poetæ Lyrici" as a correct exhibition of Sappho's immortal Aphrodite.

The main force of Mr. Verrall's scholarship is seen in the essays entitled "Melpomene" and "Murena." In the first he discusses the question why Horace selects the Muse of Tragedy as the patroness of his Odes; and he answers it in the second by saying that the first three books have really running through them a common thread of interest, which makes a great part of them a connected threnody, a kind of *In Memoriam*, on the rise and fall of Murena, the senatorial conspirator against Augustus in B. C. 23. He has worked out this thesis with Teutonic subtlety, yet at the same time with English common sense. He lays down one proposition which is very often lost sight of in the study of Latin and Greek poetry, viz.: that we must read between the lines; that countless allusions to persons and events are absolutely unknown to us, which to the poet's contemporaries made his works tingle and ring. This is most singularly true; and if we would begin to understand the real meaning of scores of passages in all the ancient writers from Pindar down, we must be prepared to read Olympus and Arcadia directly into Athens and Rome. Sometimes this fact is neglected even when our scholiasts explicitly inform us of it, and we fail to make the proper use of the allusions revealed to us. Thus the reading *δίκαιος* is defended in *Æschylus*, 'Sept.' 592, on the ground that Plutarch tells us the audience interpreted it of Aristides the Just. It is strange commentators do not see that this very fact requires *ἀμικτος*, in order that *Ἀριστιδὴς* may be read in *δοκίμῳ ἀμικτος*. The utterly uncertain date of Sophocles's 'Electra' may almost be fixed to B. C. 406, if we consider

that lines 62-64 refer to the triumphant return of Alcibiades at the Plynteria of 407. In Cicero, 'De Senectute' xii, there is a probable allusion to Alcibiades as far as Archytas's speech goes, with a deeper one to Catiline and Cicero in Cicero's own times.

Mr. Verrall, we do not hesitate to say, has had amazing success in detecting hidden political and social allusions in the Odes. That *lucæ novæ* in ii, 18, and in iii, 21, can bear the meanings he would have them, is, as he confesses, a strong demand on faith. But his view that the attack of the Titans on Olympus, as mentioned in iii, 4, means Murena's conspiracy, is excellent, the gods being the royal household. But then who is the Bacchus of ii, 19? Who is the demi-god who, more fit for jests and dances, developed an equal (or intermediate) excellence for peace or war, and hurled back Rhetus with the claws and dreadful maw of the lion? Can it be Mæcenas, who is directly addressed in ii, 17, and ii, 20? Or is this theory inconsistent with the idea that the only connection of Mæcenas with the conspiracy was to divulge it to his wife? That Murena was the heir of the great scholar, Varro, is Mr. Verrall's theory; and it is confirmed by the allusions to Romulus and Cato in ii, 15, which are exactly the names that would be suggested by the perusal of Varro's 'Origines,' a book whose subject was Romulus, and whose name was first used by Cato.

It does not seem to us that Mr. Verrall has done justice to the poetical inspiration of Book IV. It may be very true that it was written to order; but, intimate as Horace and Augustus were, it is eminently likely that the wish outran the order. Mr. Verrall, we think, fails to understand, what his *Merivale* should have taught him, that the peace established by Augustus was in itself an inspiration to poetry. It was the direct answer to the prayer which opens the 'De Rerum Natura'; and Horace bursts into an ecstasy of rejoicing over it worthy of him who called on the "renowned lady to beg peace for the Romans from the god who sways the fierce concerns of warfare." Since Tiberius Gracchus was murdered, the streets of Rome had not seen twenty continuous years free from civil bloodshed in a period of more than five times twenty years. Augustus had achieved what had been beyond his uncle's power or Pompey's, or Cicero's, or Sulla's, or that of Drusus or Marius, not to name all the other statesmen, second-rates in Rome in that age, but first-rates in almost any other age or place. No wonder he was held a present deity. No wonder he was ranked with Hercules and Castor. Shall we provoke Mr. Verrall's undying contempt when we say, in the teeth of his essay "Euterpe," that the metres of Book IV show us a freer touch and a more truly Melic ring than those of I to III? that we believe the Sapphics of "Dive quem proles" and the "Carmen Sæculare" may outrank even his favorite "Mercuri nam te" (that "Ne forte credas" surpasses "Justum ac tenacem," and that "Descende celo" may not be named in the same day with "Qualem ministrum"?)

We would renew the thanks of American scholars to Mr. Verrall for his charming contribution to Horatian literature.

*Pictures from Pennsylvania German History* (Bilder aus der Deutsch-Pennsylvanischen Geschichte). By Prof. Oswald Seidensticker. E. Steiger.

THIS is the second volume of a series of local histories, edited by Mr. Carl Schurz. The first volume is a reprint, with some revision, of the earlier editions of the 'History of the Germans in New York in the 18th Century,' a work which appeared originally in 1867 and 1868, and which

has taken its proper place with the other useful contributions of the late Dr. Friedrich Kapp to German-American history. The Germans in Pennsylvania made their settlement under much more favorable auspices than did those of New York, and the result (whether for good or not, is still an open question) naturally showed itself in the longer and more persistent maintenance of their nationality—if the Germans of the eighteenth century can be said to have been a nation—of their language, their customs, their religious faiths and forms of worship, and of some special characteristics. At one time there was a strong disposition to speak contemptuously of the "Pennsylvania Dutch," and among their English-speaking neighbors it was hard to think well of a people who persisted in their own language and their own literature, in their frugal habits, their successful industry, their strong local attachments, their indifference to political agitation, and their hostility to universal education. Now, thanks to the pious labors of some of their own number and of some Germans like Seidensticker, with a real love of antiquarian research, it is clear that the early German immigrants were men of a fair amount of culture; the leader, Pastorius, being much more of a scholar than was often found at the head of a colony of settlers in a new country, and writing poetry in Latin, English, German, French, Dutch, and Italian. Even among the Mystics, the Pietists, the Hermits, the Ascetics, and the other curious relics of mediæval Germany transferred to Pennsylvania, there was a good deal of literary activity worth preserving. William Penn himself, in his early missions on the Continent, had made acquaintance with the Germans, dissenters from the churches recognized by the state, Lutherans, Calvinists, and Catholics, who shared and sympathized in his religious tenets and practices, and his visits to Germany undoubtedly led finally to the large emigration which contributed so much to the success of his infant colony. The freedom, too, from all hostile constraint that marked their settlement, no doubt made its rapid growth uneventful. Pastorius governed his little colony at Germantown with a strict but kindly hand, and the record of his literary, political, and religious life is still preserved in the voluminous original MS.

Among those, however, who disliked even the mild discipline of the little community, there were some whose peculiar religious theories led them to still more secluded lives. John Kelpius, the Hermit of the Wissahickon, was a typical example, and the story of his life is well told in the volume before us. Of more general interest is the account of the early Germantown printers, the Saur, whose imprints have recently acquired a greatly increased money value, from the growing interest in American typography and bibliography. The founder of the family was at once printer, apothecary, surgeon, botanist, watch and clock-maker, cabinet-maker, book-binder, type-founder, paper-maker, editor, author. He was thus eminently fitted to be the first newspaper publisher of the little German community, the printer of the first Bible printed in this country (the German Bible of 1743), and of the long series of works that give his name a place of honor in our early bibliographical history. It is somewhat curious to find that Saur himself contended stoutly for the very simplest elements of education for the people, joining the Dunkers and other German inner-light religious sects in their declaration that the highest Christian virtues were rather lessened than heightened by any great amount of school learning; morality, piety, fear of God, were the only requirements for life here and hereafter. The younger Saur printed the second and third editions of the Germantown Bible, established his own type foundry and paper mill, and helped in

1760 to found the Germantown Academy, still in active existence; but, being a Non-Resistant, he was unjustly charged with taking the side of the Crown in the Revolution, saw his property swept away by confiscation, and spent his last years in poverty, preaching, however, to the Dunkers. One of his sons established the German press in Baltimore, but other sons and grandsons carried on the hereditary business in and near Philadelphia, and the name is found on title-pages published recently.

Still more curious is the story of the Ephrata Cloisters, the monkish life established by some of the early German religious zealots, whose buildings still stand, in use for the every-day needs of the little community that represents the original settlers. Dr. Seidensticker traces their history down from the German Mystics in their native country, through Beissel, the founder of the Ephrata settlement, and on to the end of its strangely checkered career. The books printed by these pious and industrious recluses still remain an evidence of their zeal, not only in number, but in point of size, for the 'Martyr-Spiegel' of 1748 is a folio which, for weight and excellence of the home-made paper and hand-press typography, still excites admiration. The Seventh-Day Dunkers, who now own the Ephrata Cloisters, use them as homes for poor men and women, but the mysticism that once ruled within their walls has long since ceased to have any place in their religious faith.

The rest of Professor Seidensticker's book is devoted to an account of the part taken by the Pennsylvania Germans in the colonial struggles, in the wars with the French, and in the successful establishment of American independence. Some of the representative Germans of Pennsylvania were the very men who had been driven out of New York, notably Weiser in colonial days, and Muhlenberg at the time of the British occupation of New York during the Revolutionary war; and to-day both names are honorably represented in a long succession of soldiers, preachers, and legislators, and fairly typify the best elements of the Germans in Pennsylvania. Though moulded and modified by long years of training, they exhibit many characteristics of their original nationality, not the least among them being a strong love for their ancestry, and a pious reverence for all they did and said and wrote.

*Passages in the Early Military Life of General Sir George T. Napier, K.C.B.* Written by himself. Edited by his son, Gen. W. C. E. Napier. London: Murray. 1884.

This story was not written for publication. It was drawn up by Sir George Napier, after he had left the army, because his children desired to know the part which he personally had taken in the great struggle with Napoleon, with which the present century opened. It is written in simple, unstudied language, such as a father would naturally employ when speaking to his children. There is no attempt at book-making, no effort after "style"; and perhaps on this account the narrative becomes a kind of transparent medium through which we clearly discover the character of the writer.

The three Napier brothers were, as all the world knows, a remarkable trio. George did not attain to the same intellectual eminence as his brothers Charles and William, but in courage, in high-mindedness, in chivalrous feeling, he was their equal; and it is quite possible that he was not so subject to the blind and passionate prejudices which caused his more distinguished brothers to do such cruel wrong to a man like Sir James Outram, cast in their own heroic mould. But what renders this book especially interesting is the fact that it is not merely a picture of Sir

George Napier—it represents a type of character which was to be found in remarkable abundance in the British army and navy at the beginning of this century. Whether or not it was the magnitude of the struggle in which the nation was involved that evoked a corresponding spirit of patriotism and heroism, there can be no question about the fact itself. The soldiers and sailors of that day appear to have realized their country as a living and personal being, for whom it was a glory and a delight to sacrifice themselves, with an intensity not inferior to the feelings with which an antique Roman regarded the "Sacred City." And this feeling nerved them to feats of courage and endurance, without the knowledge that what they did was anything remarkable at all.

Like so many of the most distinguished of Wellington's officers, Sir George Napier gained his lofty ideal of the soldier's character under the command and from the example of Sir John Moore. Lord Lynedoch, Sir John Colborne, the Napiers, and others were men whose excellence Moore was the first to discover. George Napier was General Moore's aide-de-camp in the campaign of Corunna, and the following passage reveals the feelings with which the general had inspired the young soldier. He had been searching fruitlessly for the body of his brother Charles, who was said to have been killed in the battle:

"With a heavy heart I turned my sorrowful steps to the headquarter house. On entering I saw no light; I heard no sound, no movement—all was silent as the grave. A cold dread chill struck upon my heart as I ascended the gloomy stairs and opened the opposite door from whence I imagined I heard the half-stifled sob of grief. Oh God! what was my horror, my misery, my agony! Sir John Moore lay stretched on a mattress; a dreadful wound bared the cavity of his chest; he had just breathed his last. The lofty spirit which so lately animated that beautiful, though now cold and bleeding form, had taken its flight to the regions of the great and good.

"Never shall I forget the scene that room displayed on that fatal night. Colonel Anderson, who had been from youth the tried friend and companion of his general, was kneeling, with his arm supporting Sir John Moore's head, with blanched cheeks, half-parted colorless lips, and his eyes intently fixed on that face whose smile of approbation and affection had been his pride and delight for years; but the look of keen anguish that Anderson's countenance expressed is far beyond my powers of description. Next in this group stood Colborne, whose firm and manly countenance was relaxed and overcast with thoughtful grief, as though he pondered more on his country's than on private sorrow, for he felt and deeply mourned the amount of England's loss; keen, high-spirited, guileless Harry Percy, pouring forth in convulsive sobs the overflowings of his warm and generous heart; and poor James Stanhope, completely struck down and overwhelmed by the double loss of his brother and his friend. Such was the scene which presented itself to my view on entering that sorrowful chamber of death. And although now twenty years have passed, the whole is perfectly fresh in my memory, and I do not think I have forgotten one of the melancholy and heart-rending circumstances that accompanied Sir John Moore's death."

Very real and picturesque are the descriptions which General Napier gives of the perilous, romantic, and amusing incidents in his experience during the Peninsular campaigns. He belonged to the celebrated Light Brigade, commanded by Crawford, and took an active part in the retreat to the lines of Torres Vedras, the battle of Busaco, and the pursuit of Massena. During the last series of operations he was severely wounded. He commanded the storming party when Ciudad Rodrigo was taken, and had his arm shattered by a grape shot. He was sent to England to recover his strength—the wounded arm having been amputated—but returned in time to accompany Wellington in his victorious advance through the Pyrenees, being present at the battle of Orthes, and commanding a regiment in the

crowning victory at Toulouse. About this last battle he relates a little anecdote which shows with what respect for their fighting qualities the British infantry had by this time inspired the French commanders. Two British divisions had crossed the Garonne, and the rest of the army was intending to follow them, when a sudden storm carried away the pontoon bridge, and for three days these two divisions were left isolated and might have been destroyed by the French army.

"All (Soult's) generals begged and prayed him to attack, and, as they said, annihilate this small force; but he would not run the risk, and (as I have understood from many French officers) said: 'You do not know what stuff two British divisions are made of; they would not be conquered so long as there was a man of them left to stand, and I cannot afford to lose men now.'"

*Librarianship as a Profession: a Paper Read at the Cambridge Meeting of the Library Association, September, 1882.* By Henry R. Tedder, F.S.A., Librarian of the Athenæum. London: Chiswick Press. 1884. Pp. 30, 16mo.

MR. TEDDER, who has done much to win for his occupation in England the respect which it deserves, would have the librarian "a man of refinement, of liberal education, and especially endowed with sympathy with books and reading." The old writers on this subject used to amuse themselves and their readers with long lists of various things a librarian must know—all languages, of course, and everything else so far as that is possible to man. Mr. Tedder contents himself with demanding general culture and extensive knowledge of ancient and modern literatures, for the unprofessional qualifications, and a knowledge of bibliography, including palaeography, and the theory and practice of library management, for the professional accomplishments. It is always best that the work should be learned by experience, but, wanting that, the librarian needs a decided faculty of learning by others' experience. Good business habits and a knack of administration are indispensable. Thus provided, he is to give his whole strength to his work. Parodying Mr. Winter Jones, Mr. Tedder declares that "the librarian who writes is lost"; he cannot know too much, but he should leave it for others to bring his knowledge before the public. This will be a hard saying for those who were first writers by inclination and afterward librarians by accident. Perhaps the precept would have more chance of attention if librarians were oftener, as Mr. Tedder wishes them to be, trained for the office. Mr. Tedder has been the chief advocate of this training, and the leading mover in instituting the examinations of library assistants which are proposed to be held under the auspices of the Library Association. We have already expressed our opinion of this matter and of the School of Librarians which Columbia College is to give us next year. Theoretically, the project is promising; what the ultimate result will be must depend in large measure on the encouragement which is given to the pupils of the school by those who are choosing assistants, or, in England, on the commercial value of the examiners' certificate. No occupation will long find people willing to give much time and labor to preparation for it if it does not offer a reasonable remuneration.

Mr. Tedder thinks that librarians' salaries are higher in America than in England. Nominally they are; but we doubt if practically there is much difference, when account is taken of the cost of living in the two countries. Rents, for instance, are little more than half as much in London as in some of our American cities. But perhaps the chief reason for doubt in regard to the success of examinations and schools is not so



much the low salaries as the hopelessness of promotion, arising from the absence of any attention to the leading ideas of civil service reform. There is no encouragement to a man to enter the lower grades and work hard to learn the duties of an occupation in which there are few prizes, and no certainty or even likelihood that what prizes there are will be given within the profession. Libraries are administered—necessarily—by boards of men who, when chosen, know nothing of libraries in general, and little of the institutions which they are to govern (except how to read some of the books). One would suppose that in this ignorance they would choose for librarian a man who could enlighten them. Not always. They often do not know enough to be aware that there is anything to be known. They take, half the time, a man who has made his reputation, if he has any, as an author, a clergyman, a lawyer, a bookkeeper, a clerk. We are not now asserting that this is a poor way of selecting chief librarians; but there can be no doubt that it has a bad effect upon the inferior branches of the profession. It perhaps keeps out some who might choose that career; it certainly discourages those who are in, and either makes them indifferent or turns their attention to other occupations. This is not at all a satisfactory state of affairs, but it is a state which is likely to last. We must confess that we do not see any remedy for it, unless, indeed, in addition to the proposed School of Librarians there could be established a School for Library Trustees.

*La Chanson de Roland*, translated from the seventh edition of Léon Gauthier, Professor at the École des Chartes, Paris, by Léonce Rabillon, Licencié en droit, Paris University, French Lecturer at Johns Hopkins University. New York: Henry Holt & Co.

THE general reading public is little familiar with that wonderful composition of an unknown Norman bard of the eleventh century—*La Chanson de Roland*. Time, which works so great a change in the ideas of man, changes also the words in which those ideas were wont to find expression. Hence it is more difficult to reproduce faithfully thoughts that were expressed in a now forgotten dialect than to translate from one modern language into another. Especially must it be so if the work is poetry. Regarded from the modern standpoint, the old language is incomplete, and to understand the beauty of the composition the translator must put himself in the place of the original writer, and retain of his own modern vocabulary only what will serve him to render truthfully the latter's ideas in all their simplicity, terseness, or force. Any attempt to improve upon the text is sure to disfigure.

None better than Mr. Rabillon was fitted for this task, which must have been to him a labor of love. A Frenchman, acquainted with all the resources of the English language, a lecturer who had made this very poem the subject of a series of interesting discourses, and was, therefore, thoroughly imbued with it, he had advantages seldom possessed by a translator. Avoiding the temptation to paraphrase, he has closely followed the original, and has succeeded admirably in rendering its quaint turns and naïve expressions, thereby marring none of its beauties, but, on the contrary, making them more evident even to one acquainted with the old Norman dialect. The rhythm of his blank verse lends itself marvellously to the description of the legendary prowess of the ill-fated knight and his companions. It caresses the ear with a martial cadence that echoes the tramp of the war-steed, the defiant challenges of the combatants, the cries of woe and rage of the vanquished. Certain

passages in *'Roland's Song'* are even more inspiring than the famous *Marseillaise* whose strains so often led the French armies to victory, seven centuries later. Roland and his brother-in-arms, Olivier, bold Archbishop Turpin and their peers, teach Frenchmen not only how to fight for glory, but how to die for "sweet France"—to die as patriots, as heroes, as Christians. The field is strewn with the dead bodies of Roland's companions; he alone survives, bleeding from many wounds, but the Saracens are in flight, for Charlemagne is coming to the rescue:

"The Count Rolland feels through his limbs the grasp  
Of death, and from his head even to his heart  
A mortal chill descends. Unto a pine  
He hastens, and falls stretched upon the grass.  
Beneath him lie his sword and olifant,  
And toward the Heathen land he turns his head,  
That Carle and all his knightly host may say:  
'The gentle Count a conqueror has died.'  
Then, asking pardon for his sins, or great  
Or small, he offers up his glove to God."  
Aol."

The return of Charlemagne, called back by the mournful sound of Roland's olifant—blown too late for rescue, alas!—the old Emperor's despair on discovering his nephew's dead body, his solemn prayer on the dead-strewn battle-field, and the grief and rage of the French knights, are dramatic passages of the highest order, which our limited space will not permit us to quote.

Mr. Rabillon's version should have its place in every scholar's library.

#### *Afghanistan and the Anglo-Russian Dispute.*

By Theo. F. Rodenbough, Brevet Brig.-Gen.,  
U. S. A. G. P. Putnam's Sons.

IN the author's words, "the purpose of this volume has been to give as much reliable information upon the cause of the Anglo-Russian dispute, the nature of the probable theatre of operations in case of war, and of the armies of the Powers concerned, as could be obtained and printed within a single fortnight." In order to write, in so short a time, a book that shall have any value upon a subject covering so wide a range, it is necessary that an author either should have a knowledge gained from his own experience, or should have made a special study of it during a number of years. Judged by either of these tests, General Rodenbough is not qualified for his task. Apparently he has never visited India, Afghanistan, Central Asia, or Russia; and that he has not made himself an expert by study is evident from his stating, either through carelessness or through ignorance, that Afghanistan covers an area of only 12,000 square miles. General Rodenbough is Secretary of the Military Service Institution of the United States, and in charge of its library, which includes the files of the Journal of the Royal United Service Institution (London), and of the United Service Institution of India (Simla). From these periodicals he has drawn his inspiration, and has given us a summary of what British and Indian officers have written on the subject in the last few years. The "list of authorities," published at the end of the book, comprises more than sixty names, nearly all of them British officers, and, with the exception of General Hamley, entirely unknown to the general public. The standard authorities, like Vámbéry, Rawlinson, Schuyler, Marvin, and others, are not mentioned in it.

The work contains three excellent maps and a number of very graphic illustrations, but the text is of poor quality. Its style may be judged from the following extracts:

"Afghanistan is a genuine society of different nations, although the greater part are of Persian descent. The strongholds of the German self-protecting federations are here produced on a large scale."

"It is apparent that the Russians near Herat stand practically at the 'forks of the road'; it is a three-pronged fork—one branch running due south to the sea and two branches due east to India. The first-named requires but passing com-

ment, and only as it relates to Herat, planted on a route which cannot be controlled without its possession, for military and commercial reasons well understood."

In discussing the military features of the present situation the author is not more fortunate. He tells us that in the matter of cavalry Russia is "before all other nations, not excepting Germany"; whereas it is notorious that during the last war the Russian cavalry was very inefficient, with the single exception of that which accompanied Gourko in the first passage of the Balkans. We are further told that "the best Russian cavalry can travel seventy miles a day, continuously, without injury"; but the authority for this wonderful information is not given. A more serious mistake on a military question is the discussion concerning the forwarding of the troops via the Black Sea. A moment's reflection will show that when war breaks out, England will push her ironclads and cruisers into the Black Sea, either with or without Turkey's consent; and the route from Odessa to Batum will be closed. The troops will be transported down the Volga, and on the railroad leading through Vladikavkas to the vicinity of the Caspian. These are the routes upon which information would be very interesting, but they are not mentioned at all.

In short, the author labors under all the difficulties which are natural to one who has no well grounded knowledge concerning the subject he is discussing. He has collected a certain amount of data, some of it useful and some of it irrelevant and without value; and has strung it together in a fragmentary and disjointed manner, entirely devoid of clearness of diction or brilliancy of style, which, if they existed, might serve to hide and gloss over the lack of judgment displayed in the selection of his materials.

*An Outline of the Future Religion of the World,*  
with a consideration of the Facts and Doctrines  
on which it will probably be based. By T. Lloyd  
Stanley. G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1884. 8vo.

TO a certain class of minds there is something irresistibly attractive in the results of modern research into the ancient forms of Oriental belief. The discovery that so much of what we have been fondly accustomed to regard as distinctive of our own creeds and speculations was anticipated thousands of years ago; that in some of the oldest records of the human intellect men thought and reasoned as clearly and profoundly about the Unknowable and Unconditioned as they do today in all the light of modern science; that the great ethical truths were discovered and expounded as resolutely then as they have since been at any time—all this exercises on many men a fascination as deadly as that of the candle to the moth. To the eager searcher after unattainable truths, to the earnest believer in the perfectibility of man, there is an inexpressible and unfailing stimulus in the endeavor to coördinate the whole recorded experience of the human race and all its collective wisdom, and from this to work out in ultimate analysis some formula that shall serve to render life what it ought to be in this world, and shall fitly prepare us for a brighter existence hereafter. The attempt is a noble one and is always to be treated with respect, even though by the very nature of the case it be foredoomed to failure.

In fact, to the dispassionate thinker the revelations of ancient and forgotten wisdom, so far from being an encouragement for the future, are disheartening. So long as our retrospect was confined to classic times and the Christian ages, we could see, or think that we saw, a progressive, though interrupted, elevation in human thought and rule of action which might justify hopes that in the slow evolution of the future the re-

ligion of love might become paramount, that at least preventable evil might be banished from the world, and that man might realize all the possibilities of the better side of his nature. When we learn, however, how noble were the conceptions and the teachings of the Maharshis, of Zarathustra, and of Buddha, and how many generations of serene and lofty intellects in the forgotten past bequeathed their rich inheritance to those who only squandered or defiled it, the probabilities seem to be that human progress moves in cycles, and that we may be on the upward turn of a revolution which, in its mighty and unswerving course, may carry us again to the bottom, only to commence afresh the painful ascent. It was not without profound meaning that a phase of Mazdeism represented Zeruana Akarene, or Limitless Time, as the one supreme God, from whom sprang both Hormazd and Ahriman.

Viewed thus in the sober light of historical experience, the speculations of scholars like Mr. Stanley can be regarded only as day-dreams—illusions born of desire rather than of reason. To look, as he does, for their realization within the next century argues an enviable capacity of hope, and one can only regret that he should not have devoted to some thesis more capable of demonstration the untiring industry and wide range of reading of which his volume gives evidence.

*Musikalische Dynamik und Agogik.* Lehrbuch der musikalischen Phrasierung auf Grund einer Revision der Lehre von der musikalischen Metrik und Rhythmik. Von Dr. Hugo Riemann. Hamburg: D. Rahter; New York: Westermann.

THIS new work by Doctor Riemann, the author

of the best musical lexicon accessible to German readers, is one of the most important musical treatises of the century; and no student or teacher of music can read it without immense profit. Its aim is nothing less than to establish a new musical discipline, and to introduce a much-needed improvement in our system of notation. The words *Dynamik* and *Agogik*, used in the title, refer respectively to the gradations in the loudness and in the time of a musical phrase. In a general, vague way such gradations are indicated in music as now printed; but Doctor Riemann insists that they should be more definitely indicated, for on them depends the art of phrasing and playing with expression. Those who believe that a pupil cannot be taught to play with the proper accents and expression, or phrase correctly, without "having it in him," will be surprised on reading this book to see how much could be done in facilitating the acquisition of these arts. "As a matter of fact," the author says (p. 267), "the indicating of the phrases and motives is nothing else than musical punctuation, just as musical execution is nothing else than musical declamation"; but in our present system of notation there are no definite signs whatever to indicate the articulation of motives, and the proper mode of phrasing. Bülow, Lebert, Klindworth, and others have made attempts to remedy this matter by the use of extended *legato* signs, without accomplishing the desired reform. Doctor Riemann has, therefore, prepared an edition of the pianoforte works of some of the classical masters, in which the modes of dealing with rhythm, metre, and tempo, as explained in the present treatise, are applied practically. They are published at Berlin by Simrock. Doctor Hans von Bülow, in a letter to the author, expresses his regrets at "not having been

instructed on such a rational method, which would have saved me many years of amateurish groping about (*Irrthelirerei*);" and he attests that Riemann is a full quarter of a century in advance of his predecessors. "I had, indeed," he adds, "expected an important, mature work of the author, as of one of the few musical pedagogues who can boast of being equipped with all the culture of their period; but I had not expected the union of so much thoroughness, precision, and general excellence with a minute subtlety in the presentation and solution of every imaginable problem in the art of playing the pianoforte."

The details of Doctor Riemann's innovations cannot very well be explained without the use of illustrations in musical type; but if the *Musical Courier* or some other periodical would summarize the results of his treatise, a very great service would be done to students who do not read German.

#### BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

*Architecture Simplified; or, How to Build a House.* Chicago: George W. Ogilvie.  
Bamford, J. M. *Ellas Power, of Ease-in-Zion.* Phillips & Hunt. 80 cents.  
Benson, L. S. *Philosophic Thought in all Ages; or, the Bible Defended from the Standpoint of Science.* Introduction by Dr. Howard Crosby. The Author.  
Black, C. F. *Essays and Speeches of Jeremiah S. Black.* With a Biographical Sketch. D. Appleton & Co.  
Bower, F. O., and Vines, S. H. *A Course of Practical Instruction in Botany.* Part I. Macmillan & Co. \$1.50.  
Brown, Susan Anna. *The Invalid's Tea-Tray.* Boston: J. R. Osgood & Co. 50 cents.  
Caird, Prof. E. *The Social Philosophy and Religion of Comte.* Macmillan & Co. \$1.75.  
*Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine.* November, 1884, to April, 1885. Vol. XXIX. The Century Co.  
Cervantes. *The Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote of La Mancha.* Introduction and Notes by John Ormsby. In 4 vols. Vol. I. Macmillan & Co. \$3.50.  
Channing, Eva. *Pestalozzi's Leonard and Gertrude.* Boston: Ginn, Heath & Co. 60 cents.  
Dodge, T. A. *Patroclus and Penelope. A Chat in the Saddle.* Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. \$3.  
Douglas, Prof. R. K. *China; Illustrated.* Boston: D. Lothrop & Co. \$1.50.

## Henry Holt & Co.'s New Books.

**MORE NEW ARABIAN NIGHTS,** by ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON, containing "The Dynamiter," etc., are now ready in the *Leisure Hour Series*, \$1, and the *Leisure Moment Series*, 30 cents.

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murder and starving of prisoners and surrendered garrisons, torture of non-combatants, employment of barbarian troops, massacres, mutilations, curious vows of knights, robbery as an object of war, fortunes made by privateering, unlawful methods of war, barbarous reprisals, fairness of stratagems, bloodhounds, infected clothes, influence of the press and of the writers on international law, and of the church, military discipline, punishment, armies raised by contractors, and the soldier's moral responsibility. 12mo, \$1.50.

#### NEARLY READY:

**LETTERS OF THE CHEVALIER DE BA-COURT,** French Minister to the United States about 1840.

**TURGENIEFF'S MEMOIRS OF A SPORTSMAN.**

**MRS. ALEXANDER'S 'A SECOND LIFE.'**

**PROF. WM. G. SUMNER'S POLITICAL ESSAYS.**

**PROF. ALEXANDER JOHNSTON'S STUDENTS' HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES.**

**PROF. WM. D. WHITNEY'S BRIEFER GERMAN GRAMMAR.**

**MIND READING AND BEYOND,** by William A. Hovey (price \$1.25), says the *Boston Advertiser*, "will be regarded as a valuable and welcome addition to the recent literature of the subject."

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